



CASTLETOWN

House & Garden, Courtyard Café, Parklands,
Events & Conference Centre

At the heart of Ireland's Ancient East

Event Programme 2017



OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
The Office of Public Works

Welcome

Our team of professionals take care of Castletown ensuring the long-term preservation of this special place. From the collections in the house to the flora and fauna of the estate, from the repair of the building fabric and estate lands to research on the people who lived and worked here – our team has been dedicated to the rehabilitation of Castletown for the past 23 years. It is a great cultural inheritance, recognised internationally for its architectural significance and as a place of exceptional natural beauty.

During the winter months, the OPW Conservation team has been hard at work transforming derelict spaces at the Farmyard to host our new Castletown Experience. The Experience comprises the conserved pleasure gardens, a new play area for our younger visitors, The Big Brick Exhibition with the young builders' workspace and the visiting petting farm.

Over at the Main House, style and elegance comes to Castletown this summer courtesy of the Galerie Ferrero, Nice with a selection of previously unseen photographs of Princess Grace of Monaco. Other highlights include an opportunity to see exquisite 18th-century gowns presented in Lady Kildare's Room courtesy of Countess Bernstorff and rare portrait miniatures in Lady Louisa's Print Room.

While you are here join one of our team on a tour of the House to learn about the creation of this extraordinary home and the family who lived here or set off and explore the collections at your own pace visiting 22 grand Georgian rooms over 3 floors. For your added enjoyment this season there will be music playing in the house at the weekends as you explore the rooms at your leisure.

Our Exhibitions and Events teams are second to none. Prepare to be wowed as you read about the fantastic programme of events they have booked this year from concerts to plays and lectures. Get online and book your tickets early so as not to be disappointed.

Dear visitor, make your 2017 special with a visit to Castletown. Our pleasure is to give you an experience to treasure.

Mary Heffernan
General Manager
OPW Castletown

Sean Canney, TD Minister of State at OPW, Mary Heffernan, General Manager, OPW Castletown, Christopher Moore, Chairman, Castletown Foundation



Experience Castletown



2017 might just be the most exciting year yet, as we look forward to welcoming you to truly *experience Castletown*.

We welcomed over half a million people to Castletown in 2016, and we are delighted to continue to work with Fáilte Ireland as one of the main attractions within Ireland's Ancient East.

Personal highlights for this season, and not to be missed, would be the Antiques Fair with the IADA in April, our events with the Kildare branch of Birdwatch Ireland in May, the Irish Wolfhound Club Championship Show in June, outdoor theatre on the back lawns in July and The Big Brick Exhibition and workshops throughout July and August.

We're currently developing a new and exciting website and e-zine, so to stay in touch, be sure to sign up via www.castletown.ie, and download our app. Using social media? Tell your friends you were here and tag yourself in on Facebook at Castletown House & Parklands, or if you're a fan of Instagram, share your photos @CastletownHouse.

Claire Hickey,
Programme Co-Ordinator

Claire Hickey, Programme Co-ordinator, leads on all communications at Castletown from social media to trade fairs and is the lead project Co-ordinator on the season's events.

Immerse yourself in Learning Opportunities



Under the terms of the OPW Educational Visits for Schools theme, we are delighted to welcome primary and secondary schools to visit for FREE!

As well as being a wonderful place to visit, Castletown can be used to support aspects of the primary curriculum outside the school environment in a number of different way. The following FREE primary school educational modules are available: Living History, Maths in an 18th-century house and Nature Trails. Our Nature Trails are particularly popular with schools participating in the Green Schools programme.

Members of our Guiding Team will also host a series of specialised tours throughout the year with a focus on Architecture, Decorative Arts, and the decoration of the world famous Print Room and Long Gallery.

During the season we are launching a brand new tour, 'Below Stairs', and we're excited to share the important stories about the lives and roles of the servants at Castletown. We also have a wonderful programme of workshops and lectures to coincide with our photographic exhibition, Grace: Photographs 1955–1969.

Pauline Kennedy

Pauline Kennedy, Supervisor, manages the guiding service, visitor experience, education and outreach at Castletown as well as involvement in many other aspects of the house.



Explore Ireland's Heritage, with an Annual OPW Heritage Card

The OPW Heritage Card provides FREE admission to all fee-paying, State managed OPW Heritage Sites located throughout the country for one year from the date of first use (with the exception of Muckross Traditional Farms, Killarney).

Adult €40

Senior €30

(60 years and over)

Student/Child €10

(Valid student ID required / Child 6-18 years)

Family €90.00

(Max. 2 adults & 3 children under 18 years)

Your Heritage Card is non-transferable and not replaceable if lost or stolen.

For information on location, opening times etc. of Heritage Sites under the care of the OPW, please refer to **www.heritageireland.ie**

At certain locations, parking facilities and ancillary services are provided by other bodies or agencies. There may be a charge for the use of such services. Any such charges are separate to, and are not covered by, the Heritage Card.

You can purchase your pass at any fee-paying site, e.g. Castletown House, Dublin Castle, The Rock of Cashel, Emo Court, Kilmainham Gaol, The Swiss Cottage, Casino Marino, Derrynane House, etc.



Admission Prices

Entry to House and Exhibitions

16th March to 5th November

10am to 5pm

Adult €8

Senior €5

Student/Child (Over 5 years) €3.50

Family €15

Entry to House and Exhibitions with Guided Tour

16th March to 5th November

Adult €10

Senior €8

Student/Child (Over 5 years) €5

Family (2 Adult + 3 Children) €25

Garden and Play Area

1st May to 30th June

10am to 5pm

Adult €3

Senior €2

Student/Child (Over 3 years) €2

Family (2 Adults + 3 Children) €10

The Castletown Experience

1st July to 31st August and weekends in September

10am to 5pm

Adult €6

Senior €4

Student/Child (Over 3 years) €3

Family (2 Adults + 3 Children) €18

Day
Pass
€18

Summer
Pass
€40

House, Exhibitions and The Castletown Experience

House, Exhibitions, Garden, Play Area and Farmyard.

1st July to 31st August and weekends in September

10am to 5pm

Adult €12

Senior €10

Student/Child (Over 3 years) €5

Family (2 Adults + 3 Children) €25

Exhibitions in the Main House

Art of the Miniature

16th March to 5th November

Print Room, Ground Floor

Admission to the exhibition is included in your ticket to the house.



A remarkably generous donation of eighteenth-century miniatures to the Irish Georgian Society from an anonymous Irish benefactor is now on view during your tour of the house.

Miniatures are small portraits in enamel or on ivory and were often painted as keepsakes or as memorials – a medium not represented in the collections at Castletown to date and consequently all the more special.

The miniature loan at Castletown focuses on two of the most powerful families in Irish history – the Boyles, Earls of Shannon, and the FitzGeralds of Carton, the neighbouring demesne to Castletown.

The Shannon collection includes miniature portraits of the many leading members of the family in the eighteenth century. Perhaps the highlight of the FitzGerald collection is an oversized miniature of Lord Edward FitzGerald by Horace Hone. Castletown, home to his aunt Lady Louisa Conolly, is of course a most appropriate home for this particularly fine example of the miniaturist's art.

Women of Fashion

10th April to 5th November

Lady Kildare's Room, First Floor

Admission to the exhibition is included in your ticket to the house.

Women of Fashion comprises five eighteenth-century women's court gowns from the Berkeley Costume Collection. It includes elaborate silk and embroidered gowns made in France, Italy and England. On display in Lady Kildare's



Room, these gowns are examples of the dress worn by aristocratic women like Lady Louisa and her sister Emily, Duchess of Kildare.

Countess Ann Griffin Bernstorff, the Irish artist and collector, assembled the Berkeley Costume Collection over twenty years ago, as a private passion from her own family trunks and from auctions and donations.

Hello Dolly!

Castletown Nursery

10th April to 5th November

Second Floor

Admission to the exhibition is included in your ticket to the house.

*'Miss Polly had a dolly who was sick, sick, sick.
So she phoned for the doctor to be quick, quick, quick.'*

Nursery rhymes don't seem to date and over the centuries they have proved quite a tonic for young children, sick or not, the world over. Our team this season is delighted to bring Castletown's Nursery back to life with our extraordinary collection of dolls and toys.

Like their owner Countess Bernstorff, the dolls are dressed extremely elegantly with much to inspire and delight whatever your age!

And if you want to dress the part, ask a member of our team about wearing one of our children's costumes during your visit.



GRACE

Photographs,
1955–1969

29th May to 30th September

Second Floor, Main House

Admission to the exhibition is included in your ticket to the house.

The OPW is delighted to present this wonderful exhibition curated by Guillaume Aral, Virginie Journiac and Leonardo Saviano. The 124 original photographs in this collection capture the fascinating transformation of Hollywood icon Grace Kelly into Princess Grace of Monaco.

First shown at Galerie Ferrero in Nice last summer, the exhibition has been expanded to include additional vintage photographs covering the State visit to Ireland in 1961 of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco.

Starting at the height of her career in 1955 – Grace had just received the Oscar for her performance in *The Country Girl* – we first encounter the actress on the set of Alfred Hitchcock's *To Catch a Thief*, filmed on the Côte d'Azur, then see her pose for photographers at the Cannes Film Festival a few months later. Through the lens of Irish-born photographer Edward Quinn, we witness her first meeting with Prince Rainier at the Royal Palace in Monte Carlo, a photo opportunity arranged by *Paris Match* to which both parties had only reluctantly agreed.

Photograph by photograph, their story unfolds: Prince Rainier's voyage to the United States in December – ostensibly for medical reasons – where he would spend Christmas with the Kellys and propose to Grace, then Grace's voyage to Monaco the following spring for her wedding. A kaleidoscope of intimate snapshots and press photographs goes far beyond the polished images associated with the fairy-tale story of the decade. Instead, it offers unique and unexpected glimpses of Grace's world: the world of the court, of high society and celebrities, of public commitments and royal duties. And at the same time, the private world of family life, of personal encounters, of moments that capture her disarming allure and esprit.

In this lies the charm of the exhibiton: carefully composed and researched – each photograph is accompanied by valuable background information – it flows easily like a vivid conversation or a pleasant walk through the years, drawing the viewer in from the first photograph to the last.

To coincide with this exhibition at Castletown House in 2017, we have a programme full of activities for all the family. Join us for events throughout the summer to celebrate actress and style icon Grace Kelly—from children's film workshops to adult talks on fashion, photography, and on how to create the 'Grace Kelly look'.



The CASTLETOWN Experience

1st July to 31st August, 10am to 5pm
Weekends in September, 10am to 5pm

Launching this season, a fantastic new offering at Castletown!

With a variety of events throughout the season including Arts and Crafts Workshops, Live Petting Farm, 'Big Brick' Exhibition, Play Area and selected Pop Up Retail, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the new paths of our Pleasure Grounds and wander through the Fairy Wood towards Lady Louisa's Farmyard.

Refer to
www.castletown.ie
and follow us on
social media for
more information.



Castletown House & Parklands



@opwcastletown

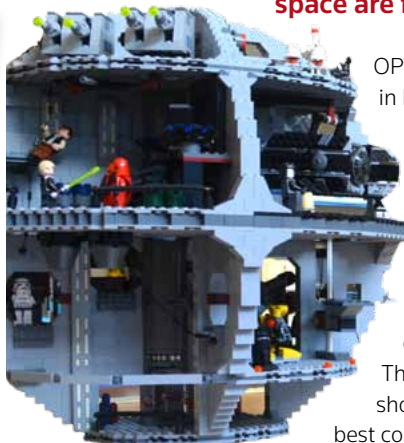


@castletownhouse

THE BIG BRICK EXHIBITION

AND BUILDING EXPERIENCE

Calling all young budding architects, engineers and designers. This Exhibition and building space are for you!



OPW is the lead design agency in Ireland designing and building public facilities and it is brilliant to collaborate with Michael Finan and *Learn it* to help train the next generation of Irish designers in a fun and inspirational environment.

The Big Brick Exhibition showcases the very best construction toys and 3-Dimensional puzzles which are adored by children and adults alike. The exhibition is fun, exciting and family friendly, and will be sure to amaze!

Featuring rare, unique and highly collectable toys, the exhibition features famous world landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, Tower Bridge and Sydney Opera House.



Children will be astounded when they recognise movie characters such as the loveable Minion Bob, the intimidating Darth Maul villain from Star Wars, and everyone's favourite Sponge- SpongeBob SquarePants.



Parklands and Wildlife

We are very proud of our work in presenting the Castletown parklands. The estate hosts over 60 tree species, which include Wellingtonia over 30 meters tall as well as yew, and oak over 300 years old. The lime tree avenue, which connects to the village of Celbridge, has trees that were planted in the 1740s.

Look out for birds like the tiny goldcrests and treecreepers which thrive in the woods and copses. Buzzards, ravens and sparrowhawks are often seen soaring over the estate, while at night barn owls and long-eared owls hunt the rough meadows and woodland mice for shrews. In cooperation with Kildare Birdwatch and Kildare Mensheds we have erected a number of owl and kestrel boxes around the estate to help increase our biodiversity.

The restored eighteenth-century pond is alive with shrimp, water snails and sticklebacks which in turn attract little grebes, kingfishers and over-wintering wild foul such as swans, pochard and tufted ducks. If you're lucky, you may even spot otters, dippers, herons and little egrets on the River Liffey.

Throughout spring and summer, the meadows are full of orchids and many different native Irish grasses, yellow

rattle and cuckoo flowers. These plants support orange tip butterflies, small copper and common blue butterflies, as well as many other insects.

At night the woods, meadows and water courses become the playing ground of up to six recorded bat species. We work with the Kildare Bat Group, who help us to monitor and improve our nature conservation programmes. As part of our commitment to the natural environment around Castletown, we have applied for a Green Flag Award in 2017.

Rory Finnegan

Head Gardener

Please read the safety notice board on the estate and note the location of the ha-has and water features. A ha-ha is a turfed ditch with one sloped side and one vertical side that is faced with a masonry retaining wall. It is a feature in landscape garden design to keep grazing livestock out of a garden while providing an uninterrupted view.

There are uneven surfaces throughout the estate and care must be taken and appropriate footwear worn. Please stay on marked paths, as other pathways may be slippery and uneven with risk of slips, trips and falls.

Please respect other visitors to the estate and our nature reserve. Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a lead and are not allowed into the pond or other water features as ducks/wildlife are nesting.

In case of an orange wind warning from Met Eireann, the Estate (which includes the House, Gardens, Parklands, Events and Courtyard Café) will close for your Health and Safety.

Children must be supervised at all times.



Bicycle Rental

Helping you explore more of Ireland's Ancient East

This year, you can now venture that little bit further around Castletown and discover more of the surrounding beauty through our newly launched Bicycle Rental Scheme in association with Wheels 4 U in historic Celbridge village.

This rental scheme will be available daily May through to August.

Rental includes the provision of a helmet, lock and bicycle with a carrier basket on the front for any personal belongings. Price will be charged: €6.00 per hour, €15.00 for half day (or up to 4 hours) and €25.00 for a full day.

For more information please refer to **www.wheels4u.ie**

The Courtyard Café, Kitchen Wing

Fittingly located within the original 18th-century Kitchen Wing and Courtyards of Castletown, the Courtyard Café is operated by The Caterers and includes the original Kitchen, Housekeeper's Room, Ironing Room and Kitchen Courtyards.

Pop in for coffee before your tour of the house or relax over lunch after exploring the parklands.

The Courtyard Café is open daily:

16th March to 5th November 2017, 10am to 5pm

Winter arrangements:

November 2017 to February 2018

Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm

Please contact the Courtyard Café to discuss your group booking or special event. E-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie or Tel +353 1 627 9498.

Follow The Caterers on Facebook or @thecycafé on Twitter for information on their 2017 events which include Pizza Nights, BBQs, Pre-Concert Suppers and Children's Cookie Making classes.



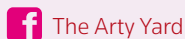
The ARTY YARD

Sponsored by Recreate

Back by popular demand, The Arty Yard is all set to inspire and engage creative spirits, both young and the young at heart!

The Arty Yard work with a wonderful team of artists who present a number of workshops, including creative sessions for toddlers, arty exploration camps for children and drop-in inventions on market days.

Refer to **www.thearttyard.com**, follow The Arty Yard on Facebook or contact Kevin in Recreate on +353 1 456 8798 for more information.



PARKRUN

Free

Throughout the year on Saturday mornings at 9.30am, you're invited to join in on the Parkrun fun around the fabulous grounds of the Castletown parklands.

This is a FREE, weekly, 5k, timed event, organised by the community and run by volunteers.

Walkers are very welcome to join in on the fun, and all abilities are catered for.

All you have to do is register at **www.parkrun.ie/castletown** and print off your unique barcode and bring it along.

A number of 5km charity events take place at Castletown during the year, e.g. *The Liz McDonnell Cross-Country Run*, *'Jog 4 A Dog'* and *'Run to D-Feet MND'*. Refer to **www.castletown.ie** for more information and links to sign up, participate and support.



MARCH

Robert Lowell and Ireland: A Centenary Symposium

Sunday 5th March

2.30pm, doors open 2pm.

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Places limited. Unreserved seating.

Advance booking required

E-mail: kevina.dunne@opw.ie

Telephone +353 1 6288252

Robert Lowell (1917-77) was a major American poet whose work continues to influence writers today. In the 1970s Lowell spent time living at Castletown House with his third wife, the writer Caroline Blackwood. During this time he was also friendly with a number of Irish poets, including Seamus Heaney.

To celebrate Lowell's connections with Castletown House and Ireland, this event will bring together four contemporary Irish poets who will read from his work and their own: Gerald Dawe, Paul Muldoon, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Julie O'Callaghan with introductions by Prof. Stephen Matterson, Trinity College Dublin.

Presented in partnership with the School of English and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, and Poetry Ireland.



Free

This walk will commence from the front steps of the main house at 2pm. Please wear suitable warm/waterproof clothing and footwear for this outdoor adventure!

St. Patrick's Day Céilí in the Courtyard

Friday 17th March

1pm-3pm

Stable Wing Courtyard

FREE Admission

Join Fear an Tí, Jerry O'Reilly, and the Brian Ború Céilí Band at our annual St. Patrick's Day Céilí in the Stable Wing Courtyard, prior to the parade in Celbridge village. The Courtyard Café at Castletown will be setting up a 'pop-up barbeque' at the event, just bring along your dancing shoes!

Free



Country Market and Craft Fair

Sunday 26th March

10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyards

FREE Admission

The first of a series of country markets and craft fairs this season at Castletown, with live music at 2pm from the Calliopa Jazz Duo.

Free

Applegreen National Tree Week

Sunday 12th March

2pm-3pm

FREE Admission

Advance booking required.

E-mail kevina.dunne@opw.ie

Telephone +353 1 628 8252

The OPW with the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte invite you to celebrate Applegreen National Tree Week with a guided walk of the Castletown parklands with our Head Gardener, Rory Finnegan.



Free



APRIL

Patrick Cassidy's 'The Children of Lir'

Saturday 1st April

7.00pm, doors open at 6.30pm. Unreserved seating

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 (includes booking and refreshment during the interval) via www.eventbrite.ie



After its performance in Colchester, England, the Blessington Millennium Choir will bring Patrick Cassidy's 'The Children of Lir' to Castletown.

This is the first major symphonic work written in the Irish language; a series of 12 songs, which was something of a sensation when premiered back in 1993 by the London Symphony Orchestra and Tallis Chamber Choir. Such was its impact that the BBC subsequently produced a documentary on it.

This performance by the Blessington Millennium Choir is scored by Harry Carpendale, for Pipe Organ, Harps, Uilleann Pipes and Timpani.

The OPW team at Castletown will be delighted to welcome L.A.-based Patrick Cassidy, the composer, to this very special event in the Long Gallery.

Please note: The concert will start promptly at 7pm, with no admission for latecomers until interval.

Organ and Trumpet Recital

Sunday 2nd April

3pm

Long Gallery, Main House

FREE, places limited.

Advanced booking required via www.eventbrite.ie



Join Dearbhla Nolan, Trumpet, and Charles Pearson, Organ, with a programme of music from baroque to modern.

The Red Embers Theatre Company presents *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* by Frank McGuinness

Thursday 6th, Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and
Sunday 9th April at 8pm with a matinee performance
on Saturday 8th April at 3pm.

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €15 plus booking fee from www.eventbrite.ie



Someone Who'll Watch Over Me is a riveting and powerful drama by Frank McGuinness

This play tells the story of an Irishman, Englishman and American who have been kidnapped and are being held hostage in the Lebanon. It focuses on the trials and tribulations of these men as they struggle to survive and try to overcome their personal and nationalistic differences. Inspired by the real-life experiences of Brian Keenan, John McCarthy and Terry Waite. Director: Tom Byrne

Please note the performance start time on your ticket, as late comers will not be admitted until the interval.

Highly Strung

Easter Monday, 17th April
2pm, doors open at 1.45pm
Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission, limited seating.



Highly Strung, an ensemble of violin, harp, flute and voice, returns to Castletown this Easter Monday for a FREE recital in the restored 18th-century Stable Wing.

Music-Making with Laura O'Neill

Wednesday 19th April
11am

Billiards Room, Stable Wing



Tickets €12.50 (includes booking fee) via www.eventbrite.ie
An interactive workshop, exploring the basic elements of music, using song, percussion and movement. Suitable for 5-12 year-olds.

The Irish Antique Dealers Association Antiques Fair

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd April
10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission

After the hugely successful Antiques Fair in 2016, come and meet over 20 Irish Antique Dealers at this very special event and buy with confidence the finest art, furniture, silver, jewellery, clocks, glassware, objets d'art, books, collectables, notes, coins and more!

The Irish Antique Dealers Association represent the leading antique dealers and antique shops in Ireland. Their goal is to set the standard for trading in the antiques business and to establish and maintain confidence between its members and the public in buying and selling.

Admission to this event in the Stable Wing is FREE with live music and food available in the Courtyard.



Country Market and Craft Fair

Sunday 30th April
10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission

Our monthly market and craft fair continues with a variety of crafts, seasonal goods and food with live music from the St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band, Kingscourt at 2pm.



MAY

Floral Demonstration

Thursday 4th May

8pm, doors open 7.30pm, unreserved seating.

Hunting Room, Stable Wing



Tickets €12.50 (includes booking fee and raffle ticket)

Advance booking required, places limited.

Online: www.eventbrite.ie

Telephone: +353 1 628 8252

or E-mail castletownevents@opw.ie

A floral demonstration from award-winning florist and designer Lorcan Burke of 'Absolutely FABulous Flowers'.

Yeats' Women

Saturday 13th May

8pm, doors open 7.30pm. Unreserved seating.

Dining Room, Main House



Tickets €22.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie

Created in 2015 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Yeats' birth. Glynis Casson and Daniel Costello tell the story of W.B. Yeats' life and all the women who supported him and inspired him, Maud Gonne, Lady Gregory, his wife George and many others.

This intimate event in the Dining Room of Castletown House, involves narration of the story of Yeats' life, including his poetry, some of which has been put to music and is sung by harpist/singer Claire Roche and Glynis with harp accompaniment.

Make an evening of it and enjoy pre-recital supper at the Courtyard Café. Advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.

National Dawn Chorus Day

Sunday 14th May

4.45am – Starting at the Car Park

FREE. Places limited.

Advance booking required.

E-mail: castletownevents@opw.ie

or Telephone +353 1 6288252 to apply for tickets.

The OPW, in association with the Kildare branch of Birdwatch Ireland, is delighted to once again take part in National Dawn Chorus Day. This is a FREE guided walk of the Castletown demesne and experts will be on hand to help identify individual bird calls from the symphony.

Please note the only access to the estate will be from the M4 Gate (Exit 6, M4) from 4.15am.

Will You Remember?

Sunday 14th May

3.30pm, doors open at 3pm. Unreserved seating.

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €22.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie

Don't miss soprano Sandra Oman, baritone Simon Morgan and David Wray, piano, in an unforgettable tribute to Silver Screen Icons of the '30s and '40s, Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, in song and projected images.

Enjoy lunch in the Courtyard Café beforehand; advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for lunch reservations.



Free



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National Drawing Day

Saturday 20th May

11-1 and 2-4pm

Stable Wing

FREE – no booking required.

The OPW, in association with the National Gallery of Ireland and Kildare County Council, is delighted to once again participate in National Drawing Day. This annual event is an opportunity to encourage people to try drawing and sketching in the beautiful and inspiring environment at Castletown. Suitable for all ages.

Free

Two and a Half Tenors

Saturday 20th May

8pm, doors open at 7.30pm. Unreserved seating

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie

A spellbinding musical journey with Derek Ryan, Nyle Wolfe, Ryan Morgan and their special guest, 'The Devastating Diva', Jean Wallace, singing a smorgasbord of favourite show tunes, opera arias and swing standards.

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.



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Dusk Chorus

Wednesday 24th May

7pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing and Parklands

FREE. Places limited.

Advance booking required.

E-mail: castletownevents@opw.ie or Telephone +353 1 628 8252 to apply for tickets.



Free

The OPW, in association with the Kildare branch of Birdwatch Ireland, are delighted to invite you to enjoy the 'Dusk Chorus' at Castletown. The evening will involve a presentation in the Hunting Room, followed by a guided walk of the demesne during sunset. Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

Celebrate Biodiversity Week with 'Raven Haven', Birds of Prey

Saturday 27th May

2pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission – no booking required.

Free

This is a wonderful opportunity to see and meet some of our native Irish Birds of Prey as we celebrate biodiversity week at Castletown with our friends from 'Raven Haven'. Please note: Due to the nature of this event, dogs will not be allowed access to this area.

Country Market and Craft Fair

Sunday 28th May

10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission

Free

Enjoy our country market and craft fair with live music from Locoswing Gypsy Jazz at 2pm in the Courtyard.



Conservation of Castletown



Dr. Dorothea Depner is the lead project manager on the conservation of the Red Drawing Room. A team of textile conservators are conserving the 19th-century silk.



Liam Murphy, Estate Manager and **Greg Fagan, Conservation Architect** are currently working on the rehabilitation of the derelict Farmyard. We aim to have this fully open to families by the summer of 2019.



JUNE

The Irish Wolfhound Club Championship

Sunday 11th June

11am-3pm

Front Lawns

FREE Admission

We are delighted to host The Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland Championship Show at Castletown. You're invited to come and view these gentle giants as they compete for 'Best in Show'.

Free



Soprano Emer Barry in Concert

Saturday 24th June

8pm, doors open at 7.30pm. Unreserved seating

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie

Ticket

€

Music



Soprano Emer Barry is delighted to present 'Storyteller' at Castletown. This concert will feature songs and duets from the worlds of opera, musical theatre and movies, with particular emphasis on the idea that 'music can transport you to a different place, but stories keep the journey interesting!' From the nostalgic Moon River to the romantic Phantom of the Opera and the hilariously quirky

Papageno/Papagena duet from Mozart's 'The Magic Flute', there's a story to beget every mood. A chamber ensemble and special guest baritone will enhance the evening, as will the stunning surroundings of the Long Gallery.

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.

Country Market and Craft Fair

Sunday 25th June

10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE admission

Free

Our popular country market and craft fair continues in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music from 'The Dublin Concert Band' at 2pm.

Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969
Irish Fashion on the World Stage:
Irish Fashion Design in the 1950s and 60s

Sunday 25th June

11pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Places limited. Advance booking required via www.eventbrite.ie or e-mail/call us: castletownevents@opw.ie or telephone +353 1 628 8252 to apply for tickets.

Alex Ward, Curator of Textiles at the National Museum of Ireland, will present an illustrated talk on Irish fashion design in the 1950s and 60s, a time when the international fashion press began to take an interest in Ireland. At the forefront of the industry were two talented women, Irene Gilbert and Sybil Connolly, whose clients included Princess Grace of Monaco and Jacqueline Kennedy.



Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969
Ib Jorgensen: Irish Couturier

Sunday 25th June

1pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Places limited. Advance booking required via www.eventbrite.ie or e-mail/call us: castletownevents@opw.ie or telephone +353 1 628 8252 to apply for tickets.

From the 1950s to the 1990s, Ib Jorgensen was one of Ireland's leading fashion designers. As a founder of Irish Haute Couture and designer for Aer Lingus and the Irish Army Women's Corps, Ib Jorgensen helped shape women's fashion for over forty years. Join him for a talk exploring his long career and most successful designs.



JULY

Open-Air Garden Theatre; Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents *Peter Pan*

Saturday 1st July

4pm, access from 3.00pm

Back Lawn

Tickets via www.eventbrite.ie

Adults €19.00

Student/Child €14.00

Family (2 Adults and 3 Children) €56.00



Magical theatre in magical surroundings

After the hugely successful event in 2016, the OPW team at Castletown is delighted to welcome back the Chapterhouse Theatre Company with a production of *Peter Pan*, directed by Philip Stevens.

Join Wendy, Michael and John Darling on their adventures with Peter, far away on the magical island of Neverland. There they encounter the enchanting mermaids, magical fairies and the cruellest pirate of them all, Captain Hook!

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, and in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, J.M. Barrie's timeless classic is brought to life in a brand new adaptation by award-winning writer Laura Turner, with beautifully designed costumes, music and songs.

For your comfort, please bring along your own rug, cushions or low-backed seating. Picnics are welcome and please dress for our Irish summer; this performance will take place rain/shine, and tickets are non-refundable.

Baroque to Broadway

Saturday 8th July

8pm, doors open 7.30pm. Unreserved seating.

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €22.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie



Baroque to Broadway plays homage to some of the greatest composers in the world and the masterpieces they created. From the opera houses of Europe to the Broadway stages of New York, the Silver Screen to the dance floors of South America.

Join trumpeter Niall O'Sullivan and guest soprano for an evening of classics, where you will hear cherished compositions by Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Bizet and Puccini with new arrangements of movie themes and Broadway tunes celebrating the genius of Gardel, Gershwin and many more!

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.

Claudia Boyle in Concert

Saturday 15th July

8pm, doors open at 7.30pm. Unreserved seating.

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie



Soprano Claudia Boyle in concert accompanied by Mairead Hurley on piano.

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.

Ensemble Avalon

Friday 21st July

8pm, doors open 7.30pm. Unreserved seating.

Entrance Hall, Main House

Tickets 22.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie



Ensemble Avalon is a critically acclaimed Irish piano trio, with Ioana Petcu Coaln on violin, Gerald Peregrine on cello and Michael McHale on piano. You will certainly recognise them from performances in the National Concert Hall, Hugh Lane Gallery, Wexford Chamber Music Festival and they have performed regularly on RTE Radio and TV. We look forward to welcoming them to Castletown as part of our music programme.



Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969
Photo Fun: Making Pinhole Cameras Workshop
with Emma O'Toole, Artist

Saturday 22nd July

11.30am–1pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €10. Advance booking required via
www.eventbrite.ie



Join artist Emma O'Toole to find out how a pinhole camera was used and make a simple pinhole camera of your own. You will be able to test your photography skills using your own cameras at Castletown House and share your results on our Facebook page. Suitable for children 8–15 years of age.

Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969
Lights, Camera, Action!: Film Storyboard
Workshop with Emma O'Toole, Artist

Saturday 22nd July

2pm–3.30pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €10. Advance booking required via
www.eventbrite.ie



Create your own movie story by exploring the wonderful world of film and how it allows us to capture exciting ideas and stories. Artist Emma O'Toole will guide you through the storyboard technique and help bring your imagination to life! Suitable for children 5–12 years of age.

Country Market and Craft Fair

Sunday 30th July

10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission



Country market and craft fair in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music from Aisling Out Walking at 2pm.

Grace Kelly on Screen

Ticket

Free

Alfred Hitchcock was spellbound by Grace Kelly's cool, blonde elegance and subtle sex appeal – to him, she was 'a snow-covered volcano'. In the course of only two years, he shot three films with her and he would have loved to make a fourth, *Marnie* (1964). Yet despite his best attempts to persuade her of a comeback – and despite Grace's own pronounced interest in the role – the Princess of Monaco never returned to the screen after her marriage.

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, we will show the three classic thrillers directed by Hitchcock starring Grace Kelly.

FREE Admission. Places limited.

Tickets via www.eventbrite.ie or telephone +353 1 628 8252



AUGUST

Dial M for Murder (1954)

Saturday 5th August, 3pm

Hunting Room

In her first appearance in a Hitchcock thriller, Grace Kelly plays Margot Wendice, wife of retired English tennis pro Tony Wendice (Ray Milland). When her ex-lover, American crime writer Mark Halliday (Robert Cummings) comes to visit the couple in London, the discovery of Margot's past unfaithfulness leads her husband to plot her murder. With Margot out of the way, he would inherit her fortune and could continue his life of leisure. But the perfect crime does not go as planned...



Rear Window (1954)

Sunday 6th August, 3pm

Hunting Room



Confined to his New York apartment with a broken leg, professional photographer L.B. Jeffries (James Stewart) spends his time looking out of the rear window observing the neighbours. One afternoon, he witnesses a scene that leaves him wondering if a man across the courtyard murdered his wife. Jeff enlists the help of his high society fashion-consultant girlfriend Lisa Freemont (Grace Kelly) to investigate.

To Catch a Thief (1955)

Monday 7th August, 3pm

Hunting Room

This romantic thriller is set on the French Riviera where a series of ingenious jewellery robberies leads the police to suspect retired jewel thief John Robie (Cary Grant) is back to his old tricks. To clear his name, Robie persuades an insurance man to identify for him the most likely next targets so he can catch the actual thief in the act. Top of the list of prime victims are the rich American widow Jessie Stevens and her attractive daughter Frances (Grace Kelly), whom Robie befriends.





Vladimir and Anton in Concert

Saturday 12th August

8pm, doors 7.30pm. Unreserved seating.

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie



Vladimir and Anton are Slovakian sibling musicians with a shared rare gift – mastery of the classical violin – and these young virtuosos have been playing together for almost twenty years.

Vladimir and Anton push their instruments and each other (sometimes literally) on to ever greater heights of artistic expression, joyful harmony and thrilling duets. This is sibling rivalry sound-tracked like you have never heard it before.

This thrilling collision of sound, performance, ancestry and rivalry combines to wonderful effect in Vladimir and Anton's must-see live concerts and on their forthcoming debut album, recorded live onstage in Ireland.

Expect to hear *Flight of The Bumblebee*, *Shostakovich Waltz*, *Dance of the Nights*, *Dark Eyes*, *Those Were The Days* and many more.

Vladimir and Anton, violin with Adam Kuruc, piano

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.



Bat Walk

Saturday 19th August, 8.45pm,

FREE (date change from Friday to Saturday due to Heritage Week)

Meeting at the Coach House in the Stable Wing

*Booking required as places are limited.**Telephone +353 1 6288252 or email castletown@opw.ie to reserve your place*

Free

Join Ana Collins from Kildare Bat Group for an interesting and educational guided 'Bat Walk' of the Castletown demesne.

Please remember to wear suitable clothing/footwear for this outdoor excursion.

**National Heritage Week
19th to 27th August**

We're delighted to participate in National Heritage Week. Refer to www.heritageweek.ie to view the full list of events at Castletown, and nationwide

Castletown House & Parklands

@opwcastletown @castletownhouse

Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969**Photo Fun: Making Pinhole Cameras Workshop with Emma O'Toole, Artist**

Saturday 19th August

11.30am-1pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €10. Advance booking required via www.eventbrite.ie

€

Join artist Emma O'Toole to find out how a pinhole camera was used and make a simple pinhole camera of your own. You will be able to test your photography skills using your own cameras at Castletown House and share your results on our Facebook page. Suitable for children 8-15 years of age.

Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969**Lights, Camera, Action!: Film Storyboard Workshop with Emma O'Toole, Artist**

Saturday 19th August

2pm-3.30pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €10. Advance booking required via www.eventbrite.ie

€

Create your own movie story by exploring the wonderful world of film and how it allows us to capture exciting ideas and stories. Artist Emma O'Toole will guide you through the storyboard technique and help bring your imagination to life! Suitable for children 5-12 years of age.

**The North Kildare Beekeepers
Demonstration**

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th August

11am-5pm

Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Free



Meet members of the North Kildare Beekeepers Association and learn about the fascinating lives of bees from hives to honey. View a live display of the native Irish honey bee and try to find the queen!

Patrick Rafter Recital

Thursday 24th August

8pm, doors 7.30pm unreserved seating

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €22.50 (includes booking fee) via www.eventbrite.ie

€



Don't miss this opportunity to view one of Ireland's finest rising stars, Patrick Rafter, at Castletown.

"... belonging amongst the greatest violinists, except for names such as Maxim Vengerov, Itzhak Perlman and Nigel Kennedy, I cannot think of those with whom I can compare you! ... This is passionate abandoned playing, full of excitement, risks and drama... a dangerously virtuosic ability which seems to feed off itself." – Alexander Bailie, RDS Music Festival.

Ladies Who Lunch

Saturday 26th August

8pm, doors open 7.30pm. Unreserved seating

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €22.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie



Irene Gaffney and Glynis Casson are 'Ladies who Lunch'. This is a wickedly amusing review of all of the facets of a woman's life – the ups and downs, the lives and loves, the bitching and bewitching – told in monologues, music and words. Packed with emotion, laughter and charm, this is a beguiling and unique performance that audiences love!

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.

Country Market and Craft Fair

Sunday 27th August

10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission



As summer draws to a close, our market and craft fair will take place in the Stable Wing Courtyard with live music at 2pm from the Ballymore Eustace Concert Band.



Linda Gillen-Byrne, Music

Co-ordinator, combines her love of Castletown with her love of music to create an exciting and inspiring programme for 2017.



SEPTEMBER

Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969 Through the Lens: Snapshots of Grace Kelly in Ireland.

Dr. Orla Fitzpatrick, Photo-historian and blogger,
www.jacquette.com

Saturday 2nd September

12pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission. Places limited.

Advance booking required via www.eventbrite.ie. Or e-mail castletownevents@opw.ie / telephone +353 1 6288252 to apply for tickets.

Join photo-historian and blogger Dr. Orla Fitzpatrick to examine photographs and film footage of Grace Kelly's State visit to Ireland in 1961. The talk will touch on themes surrounding Irish fashion, culture and royal visits.



Free

Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969 Get the Look: Recreating Grace Kelly Natalie Svikle, Stylist

Saturday 2nd September

2pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission. Places limited.

Advance booking required via www.eventbrite.ie e-mail castletownevents@opw.ie or telephone +353 1 6288252 to apply for tickets.

Natalie Svikle, fashion stylist for Kildare Village, will present her top tips for creating the timeless, elegant and feminine Grace Kelly look.



Free

Family Astronomy Workshop

Friday 8th September

7pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing and Parklands

FREE Admission

(Allocation for tickets will be by lottery)

After almost 20 years in flight, the Cassini orbiter will use the last of its fuel in a set of intrepid orbits before diving into Saturn and burning up. Cassini is a spacecraft created by the collaboration of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. It is one of the greatest space missions of all time as it has sent back millions of spectacular images to Earth.

Cassini also deployed the Huygens Probe to land on Saturn's largest moon Titan, which became the second only man made object to land on a moon in our solar system - an incredible achievement!

This workshop celebrates the mission and will encourage children to draw some of the outstanding images sent back by Cassini.

To apply for tickets, e-mail castletownevents@opw.ie. Please include 'Astronomy Workshop 2017' in the subject heading of your e-mail to be included in the draw. Successful applicants will be notified by Monday, 4th September.



Free

Kathy Nugent in Concert

Saturday 9th September

8pm, doors open 7.30pm. Unreserved seating

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie

With her deep and distinctive voice and her inimitable sparkle, the OPW team is delighted to welcome Kathy Nugent to Castletown with a programme of hits from the great Oscar divas, Shirley Bassey and Barbara Streisand.

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.



€

Grace: Photographs, 1955–1969**Deirdre McQuillan and Peter O'Brien:
A Conversation on Style**Deirdre McQuillan, The Irish Times and
Peter O'Brien, Designer

Sunday 10th September

3pm

Long Gallery, Main House

*Tickets €10 via www.eventbrite.ie. Includes admission to the house to view the collections and exhibitions.*Style – Fashionable elegance and sophistication
(*Oxford English Dictionary*)

What constitutes style? Who has it and why? What is deemed iconic and why? Join *Irish Times* fashion editor Deirdre McQuillan and Irish designer Peter O'Brien for a fascinating conversation on 'style' in the beautiful surroundings of the Long Gallery. Inspired by our current exhibition, these two experts will draw on their decades of experience in the world of fashion and design to tease out the meaning of this elusive concept and to explore it in the context of an icon like Grace Kelly.



CULTURE NIGHT

**Ar Lorg na Laochra, On the Shoulders
of Giants****Tiarnan O'Duinnchinn, Uilleann Pipes and
Laiose Kelly, Harp.**

Friday 22nd September

8pm, doors open 7.30pm. Unreserved seating

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission*(Allocation for tickets will be by lottery)*

Enjoy an evening of music with a duet of two of the most iconic instruments of Ireland. During the 17th and 18th centuries, great houses, such as Castletown, resonated with the sound of the harp and the pipes.

To apply for tickets, e-mail castletownevents@opw.ie and please include 'Culture Night 2017' in the subject heading of



your e-mail to be included in the draw. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, 15th September.

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.

Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday 24th September

10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission

Country market and craft fair in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with traditional Irish music at 2pm from 'Cairdeas'.

**Oscar Wilde**

Saturday 30th September

8pm, doors 7.30pm. Unreserved seating.

Dining Room, Main House

*Tickets €22.50 (includes booking fee)**via www.eventbrite.ie*

Barren Rock Productions presents an evening with Oscar Wilde, compiled and performed by Richard Lynch. Take a trip back to Victorian Society, meet the aristocracy and share Wilde's sparkling humour and wit, and witness his tragic downfall.

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.



OCTOBER

The Red Embers Theatre Company presents *Blithe Spirit* by Noël Coward

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st
and Sunday 22nd October at 8pm with a matinee
performance on Saturday 21st at 3pm.

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

*Tickets €15 plus booking fee from www.eventbrite.ie
Unreserved seating.*



Don't dare miss *Blithe Spirit*, a comic play by Noël Coward. The play concerns the socialite and novelist Charles Condomine, who invites the eccentric medium and clairvoyant, Madame Arcati, to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book. The scheme backfires when he is haunted by the ghost of his annoying and temperamental first wife, Elvira, after the séance who makes continual attempts to disrupt Charles' marriage to his second wife Ruth, who cannot see or hear the ghost!

Der Vampyr – Opera in the Open

Saturday 28th October

8pm, doors 7.30pm. Unreserved seating.

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 (includes booking fee) via www.eventbrite.ie



Opera in the Open presents a new version of *Der Vampyr* by Marschner in the magnificent environs of the Long Gallery at Castletown. The opera tells the tale of Lord Ruthven (a vampire) who is promised a year more of life if, within a day, he can find three brides about to wed, and turn them to the dark side. If not, he will be pulled back into the eternal abyss! Cast includes Sandra Oman and Simon Moran, with David Wray, piano and Morgan Crowley, director.

Enjoy pre-concert supper at the Courtyard Café, advance and separate booking required. Telephone +353 1 627 9498 or e-mail castletown@thecaterers.ie for supper reservations.

Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday 29th October

10am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission



Country market and craft fair in the restored Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music from the 'Wairwe Land Band' at 2pm.



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Ukulele Workshop

Saturday 4th November

Children's Workshop, 11am

Adult Workshop, 12.30pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €12.50 (includes booking fee)

via www.eventbrite.ie



Join Nora and Shane for a fun introduction to the Ukulele!

Celebrate Jonathan Swift – Swift350

Saturday 25th November

2pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission, tickets via www.eventbrite.ie



Join members of the Red Embers Theatre Company in the Hunting Room where they will be reading from the writings of Jonathan Swift as we celebrate the 350th anniversary of his birth.

Christmas Floral Demonstration

Thursday 30th November

7.30pm, doors open 7pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €12.50 (includes booking fee and raffle ticket)

Advance booking required, places limited. Online:

www.eventbrite.ie Telephone: +353 1 628 8252 or

E-mail castletownevents@opw.ie



Christmas floral demonstration and arrangements for the home with Mary Cleary of the Maynooth Flower and Garden Club.

Christmas Market and Craft Fair

Sunday 3rd and Sunday 10th December

11am to 5pm

Stable Wing and Courtyard

FREE Admission



Our annual Christmas markets and craft fairs are the perfect place to shop and meet family and friends; with Nativity Scene, live crib, music, Squirrel Post and Santa, it's an idyllic setting and wonderful family day out!

County Kildare Orchestra

Children's Christmas Concert

Saturday 9th December

4.30pm-5.30pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Adults €15, Children €8 via www.eventbrite.ie



Join the County Kildare Orchestra for this special Children's Christmas Concert.

County Kildare Orchestra

Christmas Concert

Saturday 9th December

8pm, doors open 7.15pm. **Unreserved seating**

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €22.50 via www.eventbrite.ie



The County Kildare Orchestra goes from strength to strength since its foundation in February 1998. It is community-based and committed to developing a love of classical music whilst developing an excellence in performance. This vision has been realised by the continuing support and encouragement of Kildare County Council and Arts Officer, Lucina Russell.

We look forward to welcoming the County Kildare Orchestra to Castletown for this special Christmas event. Tickets include a complimentary glass of mulled wine and mince pie from 7.15pm.

The Castletown Foundation

The Castletown Foundation is an educational charity which was established in 1979 and owned Castletown until 1994. The Foundation presented the House with 13 acres and the Conolly Folly to the Irish State, and the Office of Public Works has subsequently carried out a major programme of conservation to the buildings and landscape.

The Foundation owns a large proportion of the collections on display at Castletown and advises the OPW on the presentation of the house, with several ongoing projects that will enhance the future visitor experience and deepen the authenticity of the presentation. The Foundation's directors are drawn from different backgrounds and work in a voluntary capacity and we hope you enjoy your visit to this magnificent house and estate.

Christopher Moore

The Castletown Foundation

Nicola Kelly, Archivist, conserves the collections in the Archive and arranges access for scholars to use the material.



OPW-Maynooth University Archive and Research Centre, Castletown

Launched by President Mary McAleese in 2008, the OPW-Maynooth University Archive and Research Centre at Castletown was established to facilitate the care and study of archives and other sources dealing with the history of Irish estates, their houses and inhabitants. It also facilitates research in the decorative arts.

The Centre has built up a critical mass of collections related to great houses of Ireland and cognate subjects. Collections include: Airfield House archive, Conolly-Carew Photographic archive, Knight of Glin archive, Conolly archive, Stacumny Cottage archive and Ballindoolin archive.

All collections are ingested, cared for, archived, stored and made accessible in accordance with the best international practice and the appropriate professional standards.

Access is strictly by appointment only.

Contact Nicola Kelly, Archivist

OPW-Maynooth University Archive and Research Centre
Castletown House,
Celbridge,
Co. Kildare

nicola.kelly@nuim.ie or +353 1 654 4222



The Irish Landmark Trust Bringing History to Life

Create a special lifelong memory, and stay in one of the Irish Landmark Trust properties at Castletown; The Castletown Round House, Gate Lodge or Batty Langley Lodge.

To book your next break away, refer to www.irishlandmark.com and contact them via bookings@irishlandmark.com or +353 1 670 4733

Photography and Filming

Castletown can be hired for filming, subject to contracts and insurance etc.

For requests and permission to undertake commercial photography or filming at Castletown, please contact castletownevents@opw.ie.

Amateur photography without flash is permitted within the historic interiors of the house at the General Manager's discretion. Any indoor or outdoor photography taken is strictly for private use, and enquiries about selling or publishing photographs should be directed to castletown@opw.ie.

Filming inside the house is not permitted.

Drones are not permitted to fly on the estate without prior permission. Contact the Estate Manager for guidance regarding permissions: castletown@opw.ie or telephone +353 1 628 8252.

Access

Disabled parking is available at the Kitchen Wing/Café side of the house. Please note there is limited accessibility to the museum rooms, and no wheelchair access to the first or second floor of the Main House or the Hunting Room, Stable Wing. Guide dogs welcome. Telephone +353 1 628 8252 or e-mail castletown@opw.ie to help plan your visit.

Events and Conference Centre

The restored 18th-century Stable Wing is the perfect setting for corporate entertaining, meetings and special events, mixing old world charm and sophistication with a 21st-century flair.

The Stable Wing is available to hire throughout the year for:

- Conferences
- Corporate Dining
- Meetings
- Car/Product Launches
- Exhibitions
- Filming/Theatre etc.

On-site facilities include:

- Break-Out Rooms
- Sound System
- Screen and Projector
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Complimentary Car and Coach Parking
- VIP 'House Highlights Tour' post-lunch, pre-dinner etc.
- On-Site Caterers and access to the OPW drop-down list

Easy Vehicle Access: Exit 6, M4, Celbridge West

Distance from Dublin City Centre: 20km

Distance from Dublin Airport: 28km

Distance from Weston Airport (Executive/Private Jet): 7km

Please contact our dedicated and experienced event co-ordinators to discuss hosting your event with us at Castletown.

Kevina Dunne, Events Manager

castletownevents@opw.ie
+353 1 628 8252



Kevina Dunne, Events Manager will take care of your event from start to finish, and also manages the Castletown cultural events programme.

Location and Details

Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare W23 V9H3
Castletown is managed by the Office of Public Works

Telephone +353 1 628 8252
E-mail castletown@opw.ie
Website www.castletown.ie

Facebook Castletown House & Parklands
Twitter @opwcastletown
Instagram @castletownhouse

Castletown is just 20km from Dublin City Centre and 28km from Dublin Airport. It is only 10 minutes away from Liffey Valley Shopping Centre.

By Car and Coach

Exit 6, M4, Celbridge West

From Dublin Airport

Drive Southbound on the M50. Take the N4/M4 exit driving West. Castletown is Exit 6, signposted Celbridge West.

GPS/SAT NAV Latitude 53.355 and Longitude 6.53

By Dublin Bus

Number 67

The bus route starts from Merrion Square with bus stops at Merchants Quay (outside the Clarence Hotel), Heuston Station etc. to Main Street Historic Celbridge village. From there it is a 10-15 minute walk through our restored 18th-century parklands.

By Train

Nearest stations are Hazelhatch and Louisa Bridge and a 10-15 minute taxi.

Please note:

The house, or some rooms on your tour, may be closed on certain occasions for works or private/government business. The estate may have to close to the public, or events cancelled at short notice, due to unforeseen circumstances and orange weather warnings from Met Eireann.

Please refer to our website www.castletown.ie or telephone +353 1 628 8252 before your visit to avoid disappointment.

Other attractions to explore in this region

Historic Celbridge Village, the birthplace of Arthur Guinness and the Courting Grounds of Jonathan Swift.

Maynooth Castle, OPW, 8km

Kilmainham Gaol, OPW, 18km

Dublin Castle, OPW, 20km

Casino Marino, OPW, 29km

Museum of Style Icons at Newbridge Silverware, 35km

Trim Castle, OPW, 36km

Russborough House, Blessington, 40km

Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry, 43km

The National Stud and Japanese Gardens, Kildare 50km

Kildare Village, Chic Shopping Outlet, 50km

Please note that all opening arrangements are subject to change and are correct at time of going to print.

Help us protect the historic interiors and contents of the Main House

- Tempting as it is to touch, each time we do, it causes a little more damage, please help us to protect the collections.
- Ask your guide where you can leave prams or buggies.
- Please use lockers for bags/backpacks to avoid accidental knocks and scrapes of our delicate items.
- Refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum.
- No selfie sticks, smoking or vaping.

Programme Director:

Mary Heffernan

Programme Co-Ordinator:

Claire Hickey with

Dr. Dorothea Depner, Kevina Dunne and Linda Gillen Byrne

Design:

Liam Furlong, spacecreative

Photography:

Fáilte Ireland, Mark Reddy, Mike O'Toole, Country Life Picture Library, Davison Photography

OPW Press Office:

Ciaran Conroy, Niall McKenna and Barry Nangle

OPW Press Office

Jonathan Swift Street,

Trim,

Co. Meath

opwpressooffice@opw.ie

Castletown House
Celbridge
Co. Kildare
W23 V9H3

Exit 6, M4, Celbridge West

E-mail: castletown@opw.ie

Website: www.castletown.ie



Castletown House & Parklands



@opwcastletown



@castletownhouse

Castletown is managed by the
Office of Public Works



OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
The Office of Public Works



**IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®**
Wander Through Time



CASTLETOWN