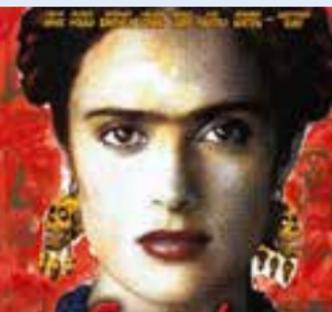




CASTLETOWN

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



Events Programme 2018

Welcome

On behalf of OPW's National Historic Properties and the team at Castletown I am delighted to present the 2018 Programme of Exhibitions and Events.

Led by Dorothea Depner, Claire Hickey, Hugh Bonar, Liam Murphy, Pauline Kennedy, Kevina Dunne and Linda Gillen-Byrne our team has yet again brought great skill and imagination to the fore in the creation of this events programme.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of my OPW colleagues, the Castletown Foundation and everyone who works with us in safeguarding Castletown.

Highlights of the 2018 Exhibition programme include **My Friend Picasso : 125 photographs by Edward Quinn, On a Pedestal, All that We See or Seem and Echoes.**

Several exceptional musical and theatrical performances take place throughout the Summer season so read on and book your tickets early before Shows are sold out.

We are delighted to welcome back our **Big Brick Experience** as this spectacular display captured the imagination of our visitors in 2017 and we expect to welcome even greater numbers this year.

I like to take the opportunity with this annual programme of events to update you on progress on the longer term objectives for the Estate.

We know year on year it is you our stakeholders that take as much pleasure and delight as we do in seeing this unique place conserved and enhanced.

The restoration of the Crimson Drawing Room is nearing completion and will be unveiled for visitors in late June this year. Research and planning continues on the rehabilitation of the Farmyard buildings, led by Aoife Hurley, Greg Fagan and Aisling ni Bhriain, with a view to opening them to visitors to discover in 2019.

Our Landscape Protection team, headed by Therese Casey and Rory Finnegan, continue their work upgrading and presenting the beautiful environs of Castletown for everyone's enjoyment.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Castletown opening to visitors for tours. We are indebted to the Irish Georgian Society, the Castletown Foundation and to the pioneering Hon. Desmond Guinness and the late Mariga Guinness for their extraordinary work in identifying that access by a wide audience would bring about an important cultural education of our nation's cultural and artistic inheritance. Their work continues to inspire everyone working at Castletown today.

2019 marks 25 years of OPW caring for Castletown. We are already planning suitable projects to mark this milestone. Our objective is to connect the largest possible audience with the opportunity to experience the beauty of Castletown, a unique place, created through extraordinary vision and talent, cared for by generations of the Conolly family and now is in the care of the OPW whose responsibility includes ensuring this inheritance can be enjoyed by many and passed to future generations intact.

Join us on this journey.

Mary Heffernan
General Manager
OPW Castletown

Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Mary Heffernan and Patrick J. Murphy on the occasion of the launch of Grace Kelly Exhibition, May 2017



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 12–17 years)

Family €90
(max. 2 adults & 3 children between 12–17 years)

Your Heritage Card is non-transferable and not replaceable if lost or stolen. For information on locations, opening times etc. of OPW heritage sites, 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, Derrynane House etc.



Admission Prices

Entry to House with Guided Tour

16 March – 4 November

10am – 6pm (last admission 5pm)

Free Admission on First Wednesday of the Month, April - October

Adult €10

Senior €8

Student/Child (12–17 years) €5.00

Family (2 adults & 3 children aged 12–17) €25

Entry to House (Self-guiding)

1 April – 30 September

10am – 6pm (last admission 5pm)

Adult €8

Senior €5

Student/Child (12–17 years) €3.50

Family (2 adults & 3 children aged 12–17) €15

Garden and Play Area

1 May – 30 June

10am – 5pm

Adult €3

Senior €2

Student/Child (over 3 years) €2

Family (2 adults & 3 children) €10

The Castletown Experience

1 July – 31 August

10am – 5pm

Adult €6

Senior €4

Student/Child (over 3 years) €3

Family (2 adults & 3 children) €18

Day
Pass
€18

Summer
Pass
€40

House and The Castletown Experience

1 July - 31 August and weekends in September

10am – 5pm

Adult €12

Senior €10

Student/Child (over 12 years) €5

Child (under 12) €3

Family (2 adults & 3 children) €25

Special Tours in 2018

Take a Closer Look

Tours are FREE for under 12s and €10 for adults (price of a guided tour)

This season, Castletown is delighted to introduce a new programme of occasional 'Closer Look Tours', in which our guides will focus in greater depth on aspects of Castletown's architecture, interiors, and parklands. Each tour will explore three different areas within the house or grounds, and will last for an hour.



The programme will begin with close-up looks at the Print Room, the Long Gallery, and at Castletown's architecture and architects. We hope that future tours will focus on topics such as Castletown's furniture and furnishings, paintings and pastels, dining in the eighteenth century, the military and political history reflected in Castletown's contents, eighteenth-century dress and toiletries, and the history of our parkland and its importance as a natural habitat.

Please refer to www.castletown.ie for more information on dates, sign up to our newsletter or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Below Stairs Tour

Main House

Tours are FREE for under 12s and €10 for adults (price of a guided tour)

If you always wondered what a servant's life was like at Castletown, this is your chance to find out! Meet the maids, cooks, stable boy and butler and discover the rooms below stairs as you listen to the lesser-known stories about the lives and roles of servants at Castletown. Refer to www.castletown.ie for dates and times of this tour.



Family (2 adults & 3 children aged between 12-18) €25



Exhibitions in 2018

My Friend Picasso:

125 photographs by Edward Quinn

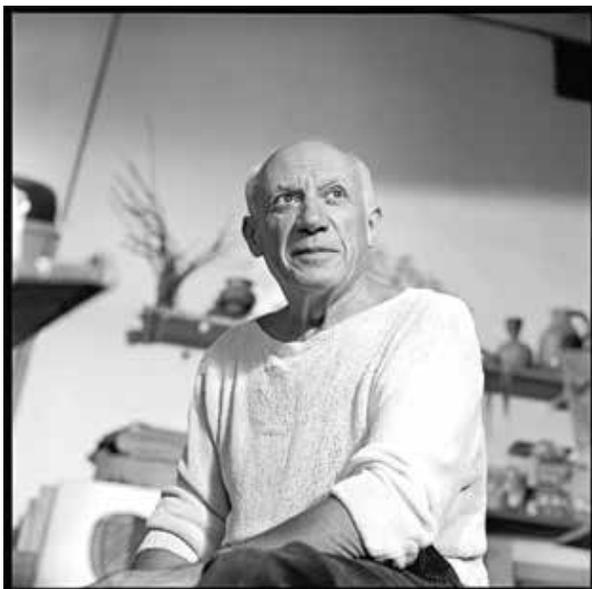
14 May – 2 September

Castletown Gallery, 2nd Floor

Admission included in your ticket to Castletown House

Discover the world of one of the greatest modern painters – Pablo Picasso – through the lens of Irish-born photographer Edward Quinn at Castletown House this summer. A testament to the friendship that developed between the two men in 1951 and lasted until Picasso's death in 1973, the exhibition is an unmissable opportunity to see Quinn's works for the first time in Ireland.

Edward Quinn was born in Dublin in 1920 and settled on the French Riviera in 1949, where he worked as a photographer, capturing the era's greatest stars in unstaged, enchanting images. His friendship with Picasso greatly influenced his work and resulted in 10,000 photos, several books and films about the artist. Collaborations with other artists followed, including Max Ernst, Georg Baselitz, Francis Bacon and Salvador Dali. Quinn's affinity with artists encompassed the works of his compatriot James Joyce, to whom he dedicated the volume *James Joyce's Dublin* (1974) and which garnered Samuel Beckett's praise for "capturing the atmosphere, humour and essence of Joyce's Dublin."



Carefully curated by Jean-Louis Andral of Musée Picasso in Antibes, the photographs in this exhibition beautifully illuminate Picasso's personality and record his life and work on the Côte d'Azur in the 1950s and 60s. Here are photos of Picasso in his ceramics and painting studios as well as glimpses of his family life, starting with intimate family shots of him

and Françoise Gilot with their children Claude and Paloma. As the years progress, a new muse enters, Jacqueline Roque, who became Picasso's second wife and can be seen at his side until the end. The last photographs are highly evocative still lifes of Picasso's studio in Mougins, a year after his death.

This is your chance to see the exhibition that has already charmed visitors in Antibes, the Danubiana in Bratislava and the Kunstmuseum Pablo Picasso Münster in one of Ireland's most magnificent country houses, a mere stone's throw away from Dublin.

To coincide with this exhibition, we have a programme of film screenings in July and a special tour of *My Friend Picasso* with David Davison, one of Ireland's most acclaimed photographers on Sunday, 15 July. During Heritage Week in August, photographer Mark Reddy will run a photography workshop in Castletown for those keen to learn the tricks of the trade. See the programme on the following pages for more details!



2018
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Musée Picasso, Antibes

On a Pedestal

1 July – 31 August

Long Gallery

Admission included in your ticket to Castletown House



Marco Chiurato

Inspired by the classical busts in Castletown's Long Gallery, this exhibition brings together works from an international group of contemporary artists who explore the genre of the portrait bust in a variety of media: from wood to stone, from marble to ceramics, from stainless steel to more ephemeral materials such as sugar. Initiating a dialogue between past and present, classic and modern art, the diversity of materials and techniques used by the artists represented in the exhibition will inspire visitors this summer.

Among those included in the exhibition are Irish artists Ursula Burke, Janet Mullarney and Kevin Francis Gray. International artists include Sir Tony Cragg, Giulio Paolini and Claire Curneen. Curated by Mary Heffernan, General Manager Castletown House, Hélène Bremer, Dutch art historian and curator and Nuala Goodman, Milan-based Irish artist and curator.



Sir Tony Cragg

Helen Burke



2018
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#EuropeForCulture

All that We See or Seem

1 July – 27 July

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Artist Suan McGahan returns to Ireland with her digital portrait series "Expectations are just future disappointments," combining these pieces with limited run performances of her virtual reality film "All Physics in a Ferment." Together, these form the exhibition *All that We See or Seem*, which we are delighted to host at Castletown this summer.

"Expectations are just future disappointments" is a series of 12 portraits which explores gender roles and contemporary motherhood as they manifest in the age of social media. Though created prior to the widespread global upshake that followed the #metoo and #timesup movements, these timely pieces continue the conversation regarding the patriarchal construction of our ideas about the self.



"All Physics in a Ferment" was created in response to the photographic portrait series "Expectations are just future disappointments." In this Virtual Reality self-portrait, Suan delves deeper into the performativity of gender roles and personal identity by casting herself as Sisyphus in a modern VR fairy tale. This 360 degree film (live-action, non-interactive virtual reality) is an infinitely looping exploration of the conjoined surreal and mundane. See www.castletown.ie for performance schedule.

Suan McGahan is a multi-platform visual artist from Dublin, Ireland. Though Suan originally studied Mathematics and Philosophy at UCLA (Los Angeles), her varied career path has taken her from Mission Simulation and Instrument Modelling at NASA-JPL through a career in visual effects for feature film. She has worked on such films as *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* and *The Chronicles of Riddick*, and in 2014, Suan was a participant on Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year. Her artwork is held in public and private collections worldwide.

The CASTLETOWN Experience

1 July – 31 August
10am – 5pm
Farmyard & Pleasure Grounds



With a variety of events throughout the season, including The BIG Brick Exhibition, live Petting Farm and Play Area. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the paths of our Pleasure Grounds and wander through the



Fairy Wood towards Lady Louisa's eighteenth-century Farmyard to meet its animals-in-residence, to visit the BIG Brick Exhibition and to unleash your creativity in our building space.

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!



The Office of Public Works is the lead design agency in Ireland, designing and building public facilities, and it is brilliant to collaborate with Michael Finan once again to help train the

next generation of Irish creators, engineers and innovators in a fun and inspirational environment. We are delighted to partner with Learn It, who will offer their award-winning LEGO workshops in July.

The BIG Brick Exhibition showcases the very best construction toys and 3-D 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 includes famous world landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, Tower

Bridge and Sydney Opera House. Children will be astounded when they recognise movie characters like 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, which received a Green Flag Award and won the Pollinator Award for Best Country Park in 2017.

The estate hosts over 60 tree species, including Wellingtonia which is over 30 metres tall as well as yew and oak over 300 years old. The lime tree avenue, which connects the house to the village of Celbridge, is lined by trees that were planted in the 1740s.

Birds like the tiny goldcrests and treecreepers thrive in the woods and copses around Castletown. Buzzards, ravens and sparrowhawks are often seen soaring over the estate, while at night barn owls and long-eared owls hunt the rough meadows for woodland mice and shrews. In cooperation with Kildare Birdwatch and Kildare Mensheds, we have erected a number of 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 fowl 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.

Please read the safety notice board on the estate and note the location of the ha-has (turfed ditches) and water features. 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. Refer to www.castletown.ie to see OPW's Code of Conduct for Dog Owners.

In case of an orange weather warning from Met Éireann, 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.



The Courtyard Café, Kitchen Wing

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

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

The Courtyard Café is open daily during season from 10am to 5pm.

Please contact the Courtyard Café to discuss your group booking or special events: email castletown@thecaterers.ie or telephone +353 1 627 9498.

Follow The Caterers on Facebook or @thecycafe on Twitter for more information.

PARKRUN

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.

Free

This is a FREE, weekly 5km 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, print off your unique barcode and bring it along.

A number of 5km charity events take place at Castletown during the year, e.g. 'Jog 4 A Dog', 'Run to D-Feet MND' and the Christmas 'GOAL Mile'. Refer to www.castletown.ie for more information on how to sign up, participate and support.



Conservation at Castletown: The Red Drawing Room Is Nearing Completion

Dr Dorothea Depner

When we speak of Castletown House, we tend to seize on its architectural significance as Ireland's first and largest neo-Palladian country house, and we focus on the house's heyday in the eighteenth century to the exclusion of later periods. Yet even though the Conolly family's fortunes turned in the nineteenth century and investment into the house was scaled back, the rooms in Castletown still bear witness to this later layer of history and interior design. None more so, perhaps, than the Red Drawing Room, or, as it was known in the Victorian period, the Crimson Drawing Room, named for its most distinctive feature: the crimson and white silk damask which covered the four walls, most of the seating furniture and framed the three windows.

A photograph taken in the late nineteenth century shows the Crimson Drawing Room not long after its redecoration was completed and gives a glimpse of the heady mixture of periods and tastes it combined. However, over the course of more than a century, the room and the silk fabric in it changed appearance. Most of the paintings and furniture were irretrievably lost at auction sales, the silk curtains and light fittings disappeared, and the vibrant fabric itself suffered from exposure to light, heat, and careless handling. In 2015, the OPW, together with the Castletown Foundation, launched an ambitious conservation project to restore the historic character of the room. This includes the conservation of the original nineteenth-century silk wall hangings, the replication of the original silk for new curtains and drapes

similar to the ones that were once in the room, and the curation of a picture hang and furniture arrangement in the spirit of historic records.



With the generous financial support of the Apollo Foundation, the silk on the last wall will be conserved this spring by textile conservators May Berkouwer and Ksynia Marko (pictured). It will then be time to install picture rails and an exciting new picture hang of Old Masters on loan from the Schorr Collection. This will include paintings by, for example, Rubens and Giordano. One more good reason to put Castletown House on your itinerary this summer and to discover, or rediscover, a whole new facet to this Italian palace on the banks of the Liffey!

Find out more about the conservation project on our blog, and watch a video of the conservation in progress on OPW's YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vAn1_hM2vI.

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Events and Conference Centre

Kevina Dunne, Events Officer



Castletown House provides a unique setting in Ireland to host your event and offers both state-of-the-art conference facilities in the former Stable Wing as well as several beautiful historic rooms inside

the main house for state and corporate functions, photo shoots, product launches and cultural events. These include the magnificent Entrance Hall, designed by Edward Lovett Pearce, and the Long Gallery, decorated with murals in the Pompeian style and illuminated by a set of three rare Murano glass chandeliers from the 1770s. In addition to these historic indoor venues, Castletown also offers the recently restored Pleasure Grounds for corporate hire.

View all our venues online at
<http://castletown.ie/castletown-venues/>

Email castletownevents@opw.ie
 or ring +353 1 5057618
 to discuss your requirements.

MARCH

National Tree Week

Sunday, 11 March

2pm – 3pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Places limited. Unreserved seating.

Ticket

Free

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

Saturday, 17 March

1pm – 3pm

Stable Wing Courtyard

FREE Admission

Free



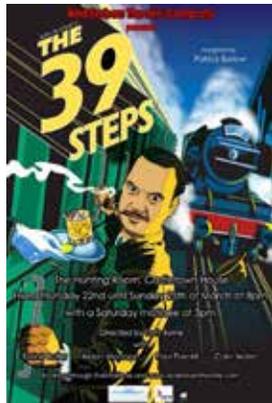
Join Fear an Tí, Jerry O'Reilly and the Brian Ború Céilí Band at our annual St. Patrick's Day Céilí in the Stable Wing Courtyard prior to the parade in Celbridge village. The Courtyard Café will be setting up a pop-up barbeque at the event, just bring along your dancing shoes!



Red Embers Theatre Company presents
The 39 Steps

22 – 25 March, 8pm
 Matinée on 24 March, 3pm
 Hunting Room, Stable Wing

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



Four brilliant comic actors. Dozens of characters. One thrilling, hilarious noir adventure. Inspired by Hitchcock's iconic 1935 film and the classic spy novel, this Broadway hit plunges you into the world of Richard Hannay, an ordinary man forced to go on the run after aiding a mysterious woman.

The play is filled with femmes fatales, dastardly villains,

deadly assassins and lots of laughs. From the shadowy streets of 1930s London to the wild moors of Scotland and beyond, *The 39 Steps* traces Richard's madcap quest to keep government secrets out of the wrong hands. The Red Embers Theatre Company will bring you on a farce-like whirlwind adventure as we go from a chase scene on the outside of a moving train, an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers and some good old-fashioned romantic comedy. *The 39 Steps* is a fast-paced comedic spoof whodunit that you do not want to miss!

Country Market and Craft Fair

Sunday, 25 March
 10am – 5pm
 Stable Wing & Courtyard
FREE Admission



The first of a series of Country Markets and Craft Fairs this season at Castletown with 'Hot Swing' gypsy and jazz music at 2pm.

Easter Floral Demonstration with Lorcan Burke

Tuesday, 27 March
 8pm
 Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €12.50 via www.eventbrite.ie



A floral demonstration from award-winning florist and designer Lorcan Burke of 'Absolutely FABulous Flowers'. Ticket includes booking fee and raffle ticket to be in with a chance to win one of the fabulous arrangements created during the demonstration.



APRIL

Handel's *Messiah*

Saturday, 7 April

7.30pm

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 plus booking fee via

www.eventbrite.ie



Handel's glorious and dramatic oratorio, *Messiah*, has a firm place in the hearts of music lovers around the world. The work has a particular significance to Dubliners, as it received its premiere at Neal's Musick Hall, Fishamble Street, in Dublin's city centre on 13 April 1742.

However, the connections to Castletown House go even further. Katherine Conolly, the widow of the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons who resided at Castletown House, was one of the original benefactors of the *Messiah's* historical first outing at Fishamble Street, where the ladies and gentlemen patrons were requested to come without their hoop-framed skirts and swords to increase capacity.

The magnificent Long Gallery of Castletown will welcome home Handel's great masterpiece for a very special performance featuring Cambiata Chamber Choir, Cambiata Baroque Ensemble, and a cast of Ireland's finest soloists, with conductor Niall Kinsella. This is a perfect opportunity to hear the beautiful strains of music that Castletown's residents would have enjoyed centuries ago.



8 Strings 2 a Bow

Saturday, 14 April

8pm

Dining Room, Main House

Tickets €22.50 plus booking fee via

www.eventbrite.ie

Unreserved seating



Cellist Gerald Peregrine and violinist Elizabeth Cooney are two of Ireland's premier string players. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy the dazzling works by composers such as Ravel, Handel, Martinu,

Vivaldi and Piazzolla, among others, in the beautiful environs of the Dining Room at Castletown.

Meet the Maestros! Children's Music Workshop

Sunday, 15 April

11.30am (5 to 8-year-olds) and

1.30pm (9 to 12-year-olds)

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €7 plus booking fee via www.eventbrite.ie



Join violinist Elizabeth Cooney and cellist Gerald Peregrine for a fun-filled, interactive hour of music making. Meet the instruments and learn about the life of the musicians and composers.

Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday, 29 April

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission



Our monthly Country Market and Craft Fair continues with live music at 2pm from 'Elva MacGowan Jazz Ensemble'.



MAY

'Marvellous Mars': Family Astronomy Workshop

Friday, 4 May

7pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE – places limited and allocated via lottery; email castletown@opw.ie before 20 April with 'Astronomy Workshop 1' in the subject line to enter the draw

Join Deirdre Kelleghan (artist, astronomer and educator) as we take a close look at the red planet and its incredible range of space explorers: Curiosity, ExoMars, InSight and Mars2020. In particular, we will look at the missions set to launch during 2018 and 2020. We will take a look also at Curiosity's work on Mars so far. Learn about Mars through images taken by Curiosity on the surface and via a large 3D model of Mars in the room. Illustrating also the location of Mars in the night sky, so the audience can relate the extraordinary achievements of these wonderful missions to the red planet for themselves.

Dublin's Theatre Royal Remembered

Sunday, 13 May

3pm, doors open at 2.30pm, unreserved seating

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €15 plus booking fee via

www.eventbrite.ie or telephone 01 628 8252

Unreserved seating

Recapture the glory days of Dublin's great Theatre Royal with photographs and archive footage, some of which has not been available before. Enjoy stories about the 'Royal' and those who appeared there.

The show is narrated by Conor Doyle, while Kathleen and Gerry Noonan, along with Pauline Cooper on piano, perform songs which were sung by national and international stars including John McCormack, Jimmy O'Dea, Noel Purcell, Patricia Cahill, Joseph Locke, May Devitt, Judy Garland and Maurice Chevalier.



Free



Dawn Chorus Day

Sunday, 13 May

4.45am, meeting at the Castletown car park (via Exit 6, M4)

Castletown Parklands

FREE Admission



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

Free

Dusk Chorus

Wednesday, 16 May

7pm

FREE Admission

Limited seating (first come, first served) to attend pre-walk talk in the Hunting Room, Stable Wing

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

Free

National Drawing Day

Saturday, 19 May

11am – 1pm & 2pm – 4pm

Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Celebrate National Drawing Day at Castletown in association with the National Gallery of Ireland and Kildare County Council.

Free

The Irish Wolfhound Club Championship Free

Sunday, 20 May

11am – 3pm

Front Lawns, Castletown

FREE Admission

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



Celebrate Biodiversity Week with Raven Haven Birds of Prey Free

Saturday, 26 May

2pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission

This is a wonderful opportunity to see and meet some of our native 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 & Craft Fair Free

Sunday, 27 May

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission

Meet family and friends and support small local businesses at our monthly Country Market and Craft Fair with live music at 2pm from 'Cascade Ladies Choir'.



JUNE

Making an Entrance: Young Artists Perform

Select Fridays in June, July, August
(refer to www.castletown.ie for dates)

7pm

Entrance Hall

Tickets €15, to include booking fee and a glass of prosecco, via eventbrite.ie



Join us on select Friday summer evenings in the serene setting of the grand Entrance Hall, where some of Ireland's finest young artists will perform. Enjoy piano solos, piano with cello, with violin, with voice, and much, much more.

The Four Seasons, with Lynda O'Connor

Saturday, 9 June

8pm

Long Gallery, Main House

Tickets €27.50 plus booking fee via www.eventbrite.ie
Unreserved seating



Join violin virtuoso Lynda O'Connor for an exciting evening of violin favourites and a performance of *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi. Lynda will be joined on the night by the Wolfgang Ensemble, which is formed by some of Ireland's finest musicians. The evening will be full of fantastic flourish and excitement.



Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday, 24 June

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission

Country Market and Craft Fair in the restored eighteenth-century Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music by viola/violin player, Bogdan Rusin, from 12pm.



The Dublin Concert Band's 60th Anniversary

Sunday, 24 June

2pm

Back Lawn, Pleasure Grounds

Ticketed event – email castletown@opw.ie for details or phone 01 6288252

Celebrate 60 years of the Dublin Concert Band in the Pleasure Grounds of Castletown.



The Connor McKeon Band presents

The Legends of Swing

Friday, 29 June

Back Lawn, Pleasure Grounds

6pm – 9pm

Tickets €12 (adults), €10 (senior), €8 (students/children over 12 years) via www.eventbrite.ie
FREE for under 12s

After seven successful sell-out concerts at the National Concert Hall Dublin, we are delighted to welcome *The Legends of Swing* to the Castletown Pleasure Grounds for one night only! Don't miss one of the most highly regarded shows of its kind ever to visit this fantastic outdoor venue.

Come along and enjoy an exciting evening crammed full of amazing hits performed by one of the most charismatic and entertaining singers of this genre, performing the high-energy, big, bold and raucous songs of The Rat Pack, Swing Era & The Great American Song Book with hits from Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, Nat King Cole and other famous singers from this era.

Rain or shine, bring along your own low-back seating/blanket/cushions/rug and picnic basket. Most importantly, be sure to wear your dancing shoes!



JULY

MOVIES AT
CASTLETOWN**Art & Love: Our Summer Mini Film Festival**

Why not combine your visit to the international exhibition, *My Friend Picasso: 125 photographs by Edward Quinn* with a FREE movie in Castletown. Each Saturday afternoon in July, from the 7th to the 21st, we will be screening a film dedicated to three iconic artists of the twentieth century: Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo and Jackson Pollock. Each of them broke the mould in a different way, each one suffered for their art – and for love. Showing both their artistic struggle and their fascinating personal lives, the films we present to you capture the passion and the conflict out of which great art was born and introduce you to the artists' companions – Françoise Gilot, Diego Rivera and Lee Krasner – who were acclaimed painters in their own right. Immerse yourself in their stories within the serene surroundings of Ireland's greatest country home!

Surviving Picasso

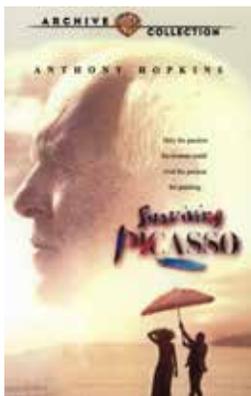
Saturday, 7 July

3pm, doors open at 2.45pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE admission**Seats on a first come, first served basis**

Free



Canvas, colour, metal, ceramics. The century's leading artist commanded them all. But what about the legendary Pablo Picasso's other great passion, his passion for women? Academy Award winner Anthony Hopkins gives a full-throttle performance as the acclaimed artist in this masterful movie told from the viewpoint of Picasso's long-time mistress and mother of his children Claude and Paloma, the painter Françoise Gilot (Natascha

McElhone in a luminous film debut). This Merchant Ivory film is an intimate, insightful tale of genius, beauty and obsession.

Frida

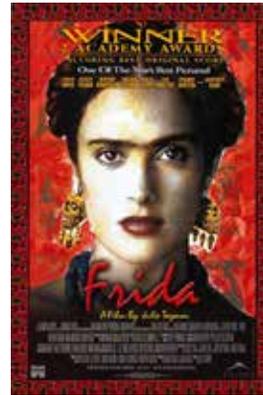
Saturday, 14 July

3pm, doors open at 2.45pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE admission**Seats on a first come, first served basis**

Free



Nominated for six Academy Awards in 2002, *Frida* is the true story of Frida Kahlo (Salma Hayek) and her husband Diego Rivera (Alfred Molina), the larger-than-life painters who became the most acclaimed artists in Mexican history, and whose tempestuous love affair and outrageous personalities made them legendary. A product of humble beginnings, Frida earns fame as a talented artist

with a unique vision, channelling the pain of a crippling injury into surreal art.

Pollock

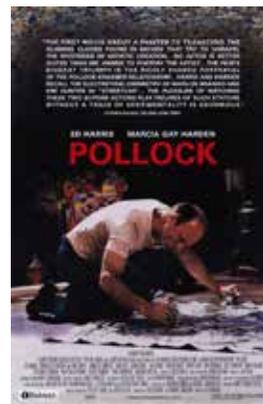
Saturday, 21 July

3pm, doors open at 2.45pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE admission**Seats on a first come, first served basis**

Free

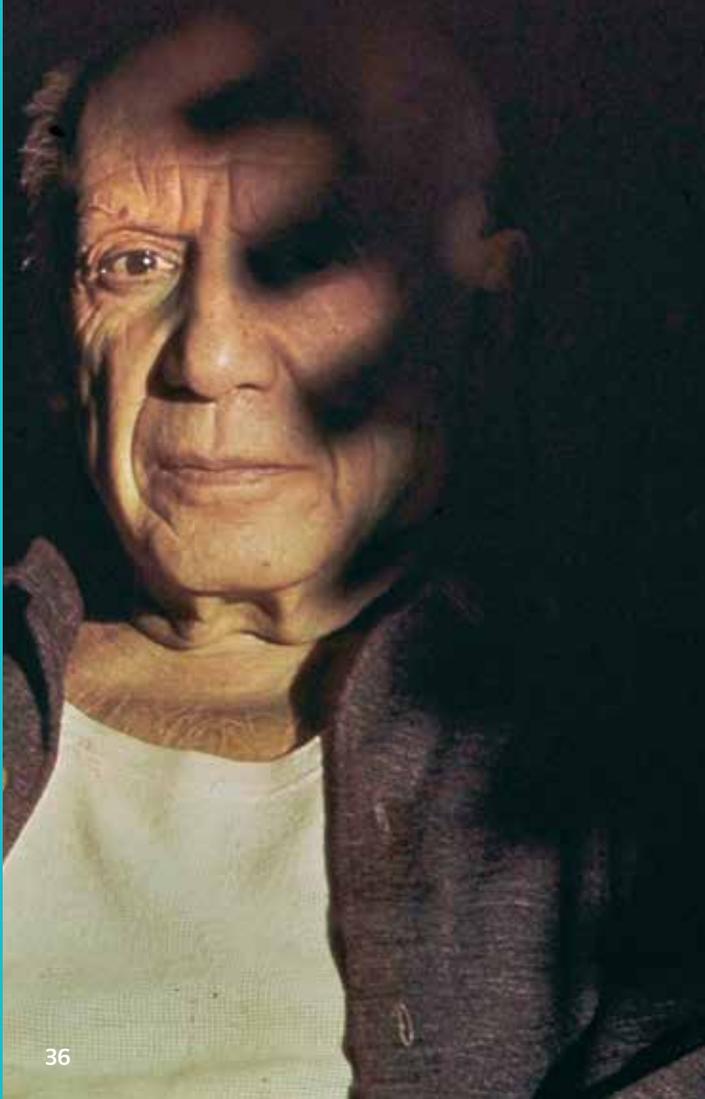


Directed by and starring Ed Harris, *Pollock* is a beautifully crafted drama about the legendary American painter Jackson Pollock. Fellow artists and lovers Pollock and Lee Krasner (Marcia Gay Harden, in an Oscar-winning performance) are at the centre of New York's 1940s art scene, but as Krasner neglects her work to push Pollock's career forward, Pollock begins to unravel emotionally.

My Friend Picasso

125 photographs by Edward Quinn

14 May – 2 September



Special tour of *My Friend Picasso* with David Davison, one of Ireland's most acclaimed photographers

Sunday, 15 July

3pm, doors open 2.45pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing and 2nd floor Gallery, Main House

Tickets €10 from the Ticket Desk (includes your admission to the house)

Tickets allocated on a first come, first served basis on the day



LEGO Workshops with *Learn It*

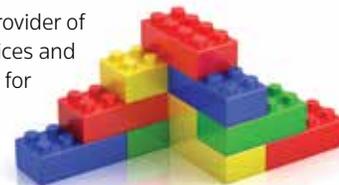
Saturday, 28 and Sunday, 29 July

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €10 via www.eventbrite.ie

Learn It are Ireland's No. 1 provider of LEGO-based children's services and have won numerous awards for their camps and workshops. Through the *Learn It* workshops, children learn about the world around them and how to

design, create and problem solve, while covering all of the S.T.E.M subjects in the process (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We are delighted to welcome *Learn It* back to Castletown this summer and hope your children enjoy the workshops and are inspired!



Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday, 29 July

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission

Country Market and Craft Fair in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music at 2pm from 'Highly Strung'.



AUGUST

Chapterhouse Theatre presents *Robin Hood and his Merry Men*

Saturday, 4 August
5pm, access from 4pm
Back Lawn, Pleasure Grounds

Tickets €19 (adults), €14 (student/child),
€56 (2 adults & 3 children) via
www.eventbrite.ie



Rain, hail or sunshine: bring your picnic basket along for this open-air production of a family favourite! Robin Hood and his band of merry men are feared by the rich as they steal to give to the poor. When the evil Sheriff of Nottingham schemes to stop the outlaws, they must join with Maid Marian to rescue Robin and restore peace. Inspired by folklore, myth and legend, this brand-new version of Robin's notorious story is brought to life with sword play, song, music, dance and medieval costumes.



Echoes an Exhibition by element15

Free

10 – 22 August
Stable Wing

FREE Admission

Eleanor Swan, ceramic artist, and Jocelyn Stephens, fine art printmaker, mount a collaborative and site-specific exhibition for Castletown House, exploring the artists' response to the house in three diverse media. Ceramics and fine art prints complement and contrast strikingly with contemporary textiles in terms of texture, form and colour in this exhibition. This body of work takes inspiration from Castletown – its history, architecture, interiors and exteriors – and from the lives of the aristocracy who created Castletown House and Demesne.



element¹⁵

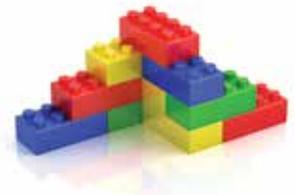
LEGO Workshops with *Learn It*

Saturday, 18 and Sunday, 19 August
Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €10 via www.eventbrite.ie



Learn It are Ireland's No. 1 provider of LEGO-based children's services and have won numerous awards for their camps and workshops. Through the *Learn It* workshops, children learn about the world around them and how to design, create and problem solve, while covering all of the S.T.E.M subjects in the process (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We are delighted to welcome *Learn It* back to Castletown this summer and hope your children enjoy the workshops and are inspired!





National Heritage Week

SHARING STORIES

18 - 26 August

This year's theme for National Heritage Week is 'Sharing Stories', and there are many stories to share here in Castletown indeed. In addition to the events below, refer to www.castletown.ie for our special tours and events to celebrate Heritage Week.

Picture Perfect: Digital Camera Workshop with Photographer Mark Reddy

Tuesday, 21 August

1pm – 5pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Tickets €15 plus booking fee via www.eventbrite.ie
Suitable for 16 years+, please bring your own digital camera (and tripods, speedlights if you have them)



Words are one way of 'Sharing Stories' – this year's theme of National Heritage Week – but a picture can be worth a thousand words if done right. Why not combine a visit of our photographic exhibition, *My Friend Picasso*, with a half-day DSLR photography workshop in Castletown. Join professional photographer Mark Reddy of Trinity Digital Studios, Maynooth, to learn the tricks of the trade in this



introductory course aimed at beginners which will cover everything you need to know to become a more skilled photographer yourself: the

stop and shutter speed, ASA/ISO, how to use cameras in manual mode, how to shoot raw files and how to white balance so you will get the most from your camera. Mark will explain the importance of starting each photo session with a properly exposed image using the histogram on the back of your camera. A practical session will follow on using available light and flash, giving participants the opportunity to shoot indoors and outdoors at Castletown. After this, images will be downloaded and Mark will explain how to process raw files and the workflow he uses.

Mark Reddy started his photographic career in 1987 with Tony O'Malley Pictures and later moved to Ireland's largest commercial studio in Dublin. He has won many awards, and in 2001 was Fuji Masterpiece photographer of the Year. In 2002, he became the Irish Professional Photographer of the Year at the IPPA National Photographic Awards. He has worked with Ireland's leading brands and celebrities, including Nidge from *Love/Hate*, Celia Ahern, Nevin Maguire, Martin King, Paul Flynn, Clelia Murphy, Miriam O Callaghan and Kathryn Thomas. In October 2017, Mark travelled to Haiti to document the work of The Haven Partnership, a unique opportunity to see and capture the great work carried out by the charity.

Katherine Conolly: Her Life and Letters

Lecture by Gaye Ashford

Tuesday, 21 August

7pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

Free Admission



As part of our Heritage Week celebrations, join us for a talk on 'Katherine Conolly: Her Life and Letters', delivered by Gaye Ashford.

Poetry Reading with Rita Ann Higgins

Friday, 24 August

8pm

Dining Room

Tickets €10 via www.eventbrite.ie



Galway-born Irish poet and playwright Rita Ann Higgins has published several collections of poetry and is renowned for her frank, wry poems. Her honours include the Peadar O'Donnell Award, several Arts Council grants, and residencies granted by National University of Ireland-Galway, Offaly County Council and Galway City Library. Join her for an intimate poetry reading in the Dining Room.

CaraNua

Saturday, 25 August

8pm

Entrance Hall

Tickets €20 plus booking fee via www.eventbrite.ie



Lynn Hilary, Alex Sharpe and Edel Murphy are CaraNua, a unique celebration of Celtic Music. These former soloists from the hugely successful, world-famous *Riverdance* and Emmy-nominated Irish music sensation *Celtic Woman* have joined together to bring you a Celtic Music Experience featuring well-loved old Irish classics along with more modern favourites in crystal-clear vocals and beautiful and unique harmonies.



Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday, 26 August

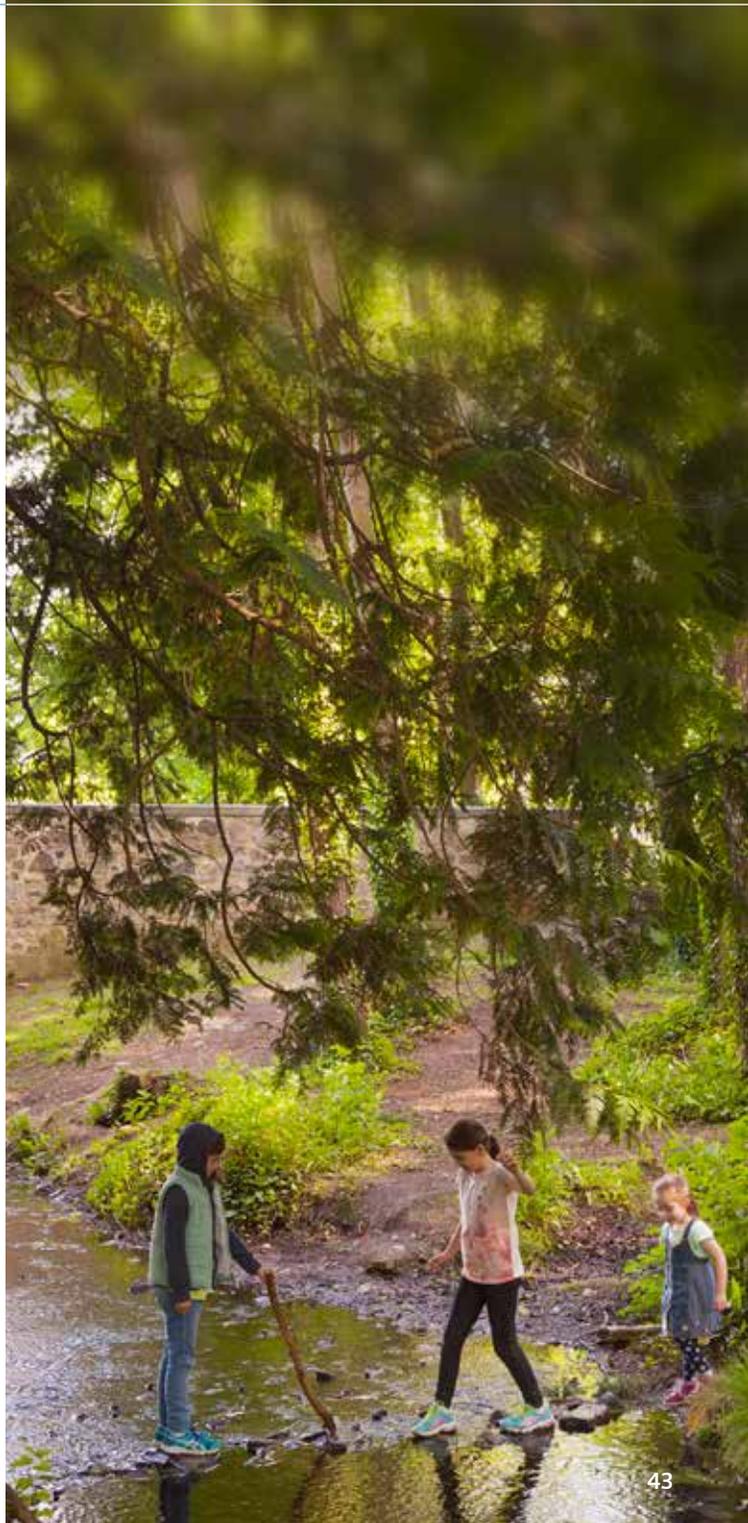
10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission



Country Market and Craft Fair in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music at 2pm from the Ballymore Eustace Concert Band.



SEPTEMBER

Opera in the Open:

Serenata Italiana & Puccini's Gianni Schicchi

Saturday, 1 September

5pm, access from 4pm

Back Lawn

Tickets €20 (adults), €15 (concession) via

www.eventbrite.ie

Presented by The Harlequin Opera Company, this open-air event on Castletown's back lawn will begin with a selection of favourite Italian arias, followed by Puccini's one-act comic opera *Gianni Schicchi*. Enjoy a fresh, inventive, fun take on this beloved classic tale of the conniving Donati family's attempts to change their deceased uncle's will for their own gain. Rain, hail or sunshine, make sure to bring your picnic along!

Founded by David Wray, along with two of the principal singers with the company, Sandra Oman soprano and Simon Morgan baritone, The Harlequin Opera Company is a dynamic touring opera company dedicated to the provision of small-scale, innovative operatic presentations.



'Let's Go to the Moon – Apollo 11': Family Astronomy Workshop

Friday, 14 September

7pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

FREE – places limited and allocated via lottery; email castletown@opw.ie before 1 September with 'Astronomy Workshop 2' in the subject line to enter the draw

The workshop will begin with a 20-minute presentation about the Apollo 11 moon landing. A drawing session will then begin with tuition, encouragement and suggestions. This workshop will ensure the attending audience will know how to locate the landing spot of Apollo 11 on the moon with their naked eye. The workshop will finish up with a short video from the NASA Apollo Missions.

Free

'Popcorn not Included': Music from the Movies with a Twist

Saturday, 15 September

8pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

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

Join us for a night of songs and music from *La Vita è Bella*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Top Hat*, *Moonstruck*, *The Mission* and *Les Choristes*.



Culture Night

Friday, 21 September

Come and enjoy a FREE harp and flute concert in the Entrance Hall at 7pm. Tickets allocated on a first come, first served basis. Refer to www.castletown.ie to find out more about our events to celebrate Culture Night 2018.

Free



Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday, 30 September

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission

Country Market and Craft Fair in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with live uilleann pipes and harp music at 2pm.

Free



OCTOBER

Tower of Song: The Songs of Leonard Cohen

Saturday, 13 October
8pm

Hunting Room, Stable Wing

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



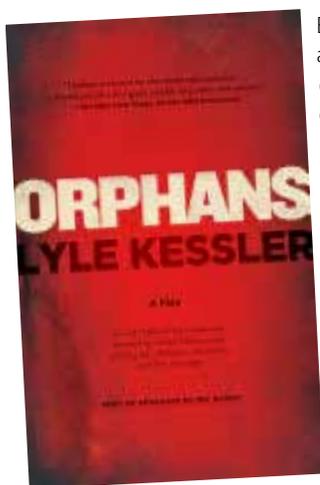
The songs of Leonard Cohen return to Castletown this October with five wonderful musicians reinterpreting the masterworks of one of the greatest singer-songwriters. Universally admired and loved for his take on life and love, Leonard's songs (*Suzanne, So Long Marianne, Tower of Song* and much, much more) will be played by Bobby Roche, Liz Monahan, Marion McEvoy, Kieran McEvoy and Jim Devlin. Don't miss this wonderful show!

Red Embers Theatre Company presents *Orphans*

18 – 21 October, 8pm

Matinée on 20 October, 3pm
Hunting Room, Stable Wing

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



Broadway and off-Broadway audiences gave this moving drama by Lyle Kessler standing ovations. It is the story of two brothers, Phillip, sensitive, reclusive, never venturing out of his North Philly home and Treat, a violent pickpocket and thief who kidnaps a mysteriously wealthy businessman. Turning the tables on the two brothers, their hostage becomes their long-lost father figure in a strange, hilarious and moving way.

BORN IN 1685

OCTOBER 2018



The Irish Baroque Orchestra Presents

Born in 1685

Sunday, October 21
3pm
Long Gallery

Tickets €25 (adults), €20 (concession), €10 (students), €5 children via www.eventbrite.ie



Italian oboist Alfredo Bernardini is one of the world's leading baroque directors and instrumentalists. His personality and charm pour from his playing and we are delighted to welcome him back with the Irish Baroque Orchestra in 2018.

Alfredo presents a programme entitled *Born in 1685*. 1685 was a momentous year for music with three master composers all born in the same year – Bach, Handel and Scarlatti. The programme charts their musical contributions to the baroque period and showcases the virtuosic playing and directing of Alfredo.

**IRISH
BAROQUE**
ORCHESTRA

Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday, 28 October

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission

Country Market and Craft Fair in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music at 2pm from Our Lady's Gospel Choir, Leixlip.

Free

Please check our calendar online on www.castletown.ie for **Halloween** and **Christmas events**, or sign up to our mailing list to receive a monthly update on our upcoming events.

NOVEMBER

Country Market & Craft Fair

Sunday, 25 November

10am – 5pm

Stable Wing & Courtyard

FREE Admission

Country Market and Craft Fair in the Stable Wing and Courtyard with live music at 2pm.

Free



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 managed the site since and 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, which it has given on long-term loan to the OPW. It advises the OPW on the presentation of the house, with several ongoing projects that will enhance the future visitor experience. 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.

Jeanne Meldon and David Sheehan

The Castletown Foundation

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.

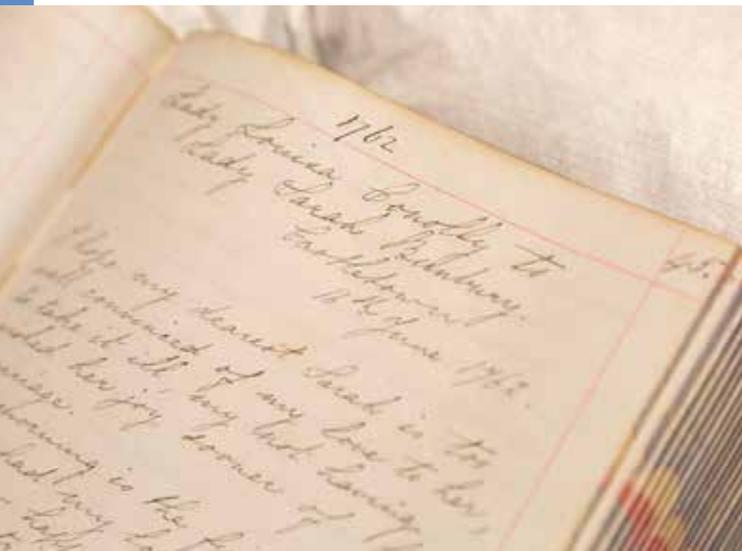
The Centre has built up a critical mass of collections related to great houses of Ireland and cognate subjects. Collections include: Airfield House archive, Conolly – Carew Photographic archive, Knight of Glin archive, Conolly archive, Stacumny Cottage archive and Ballindoolin archive.

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

Email nicola.kelly@mu.ie or telephone +353 1 654 4222



The Irish Landmark Trust: Bringing History to Life

Create a special lifelong memory and stay in one of Castletown's former lodges, managed by the Irish Landmark Trust. Choose from the Castletown Round House, Gate Lodge or Batty Langley Lodge.

To book your next break away, refer to www.irishlandmark.com and email bookings@irishlandmark.com or telephone +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 +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 (which includes the Long Gallery) or to the Hunting Room in the Stable Wing. Please note only one wheelchair access to the ground floor of the house at any one time due to the single fire lobby available for a wheelchair in the event of a fire evacuation. Guide dogs are welcome. Telephone +353 1 628 8252 or email castletown@opw.ie and refer to www.castletown.ie to help plan your visit.

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 severe weather warnings (status orange) from Met Éireann.

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.

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

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. Refer to www.castletown.ie before your visit or telephone +353 1 628 8252.

Please 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 provided for bags/backpacks to avoid accidental knocks and scrapes of our delicate items.
- No eating, drinking or chewing gum.
- No selfie sticks, smoking or vaping.

Programme Director:

Mary Heffernan

Programme Co-Ordinator:

Dr Dorothea Depner, Linda Gillen-Byrne and Kevina Dunne

Design:

Liam Furlong, spacecreative

Photography:

OPW

Trinity Digital Studios

Country Life Picture Library

Edward Quinn Archive, © edwardquinn.com

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**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

