



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024

TIME	THE MARQUEE	THE RINGROSE ROOM	THE STABLES ROOM
10am	FESTIVAL OPENING by Glenn Patterson, Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queens University, Belfast; with readings of Seamus Heaney's poetry and music from Celtic Grace		
11am	STEPHEN PRICE The Earl Bishop – The art and architecture of Frederick Hervey, founder of Ballyscullion Park	ROBERT O'BYRNE The Irish Country House in the 21st Century. Challenges and Reinvention	SEBASTIAN GRAHAM Manor mills in the Mid Ulster area - their owners, history, and fate
12pm	MARTIN AND JOYCE ENRIGHT 'The Yeats' Country' - an illustrated talk	SOPHIA HILLAN with CASSANDRA WEDD (5x great niece of Jane Austen) Jane Austen's Nieces in Ireland	ELIZA PAKENHAM "Tourism, Tenants and Taxes." Keeping the roof on Tullynally Castle, and researching family history.
2pm	EMMA HEATHERINGTON Setting The Scene - A Love for Location in Storytelling - Emma will discuss how she brings these places to life on the page, how her readers feel like they are living in the story, why she chose these locations and how Ballyscullion Park has inspired her to base her 2025 novel right in the heart of Heaney country.	ANTHONY MALCOLMSON AND ANDREW HUGHES Archives and Annals – Researching Big House Histories	ROWAN SOMERVILLE Israel/Palestine, A Pound of Flesh, and the Quality of Mercy - the true story of a suicide bomb and a heart transplant.
3pm	CARLO GEBLER A Cold Eye - Notes from a shared island 1989 – 2024	VIBSE DUNLEATH AND FINOLA O'KANE Walled Gardens – How we fed ourselves in the 18C, and the May hunger gap.	BRUCE CLARK & IOANNES CHOUNTIS Byron in Athens , and the influence of Greek art and architecture on Irish and other houses.
4.00pm	CELTIC GRACE – Celtic Kindness This unique show focuses the incredible true-life story of the iconic blind harper, Turlough O'Carolan, a genius composer. Drinks and canapes will be served		



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2024

TIME	THE MARQUEE	THE RINGROSE ROOM	THE STABLES ROOM
10am	CARLO GEBLER 'I, Antigone' . The story of Oedipus from his daughter's perspective, exploring Free Will versus Fate	VIBSE DUNLEATH Monica de Wichfeld ; from Fermanagh to the Danish Resistance	ANTHONY MALCOLMSON 'Edifying bishops' – The role of the C of I bishops of the 18th and early 19th centuries in building Big Houses
11am	SOPHIA HILLAN Look! It's a Woman Writer - Experiences of writing fiction	NEIL PORTEOUS Gardening on the Edge - the climate and Irish gardens.	ANDREW GAILEY In the Blood – The Scandalous Sheridan Girls
12pm	ROWAN SOMERVILLE and STEPHEN PRICE in conversation about Rowan's forthcoming novel	PADDY CREEDON Poetry Treasure hunt – an immersive experience of writing poetry	FINOLA O'KANE Landscape design and revolution in Ireland and the United States 1688-1815
2pm	ROBERT O'BYRNE AND ELIZA PAKENHAM 'Managing an Irish Country House Today'	ANDREW HUGHES From History to Fiction - How the stories unearthed while researching house histories inspired his career as a novelist, including recently published 'Emma, Disappeared'	SUZIE SCOTT The Art of Flowers in the Georgian Period
3pm	BRUCE CLARK AND SEBASTIAN GRAHAM Wheels, water, and white linen : tracing the Ulster genius for harnessing mountain streams to finish beautiful fabric.	TERENCE REEVES-SMYTH Big House Pastimes : Three hundred years of sport in gardens and demesnes	IAN MCKINLEY Second Sight - Rugby and Redemption . Ian's story is a tale that celebrates the power of the human spirit to overcome the greatest of setbacks.
4.00pm	YEATS AND THE CENTENARY OF HIS NOBEL PRIZE - Performance and poetry with music by Celtic Grace		