

COOLE PARK SPRING PROGRAMME 2007

JANUARY

TRADITIONAL ARTS SERIES

Saturday 6th January, 2:30pm

Storytelling for families. Back by popular demand, Niall de Búrca tells traditional tales for children aged 7+. Clare Muireann Murphy enchants the younger children with stories from all corners of the globe - suitable for ages 4-6.

DRAMA SERIES

Saturday 13th January, 2:30pm

Puppet Show. Dog and String Puppet Theatre present The Billy Holiday Show. Billy is probably the world's most famous singing goat. She comes with her own troupe to perform 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'Dolly and Daisy's Fantastic Fizzical Theatre'. Suitable for ages 4-10 with their parents. Not suitable for under 4's as there are scary bits !!

CLASSICAL SERIES

Sunday 21st January, 7:30pm

Classical Guitar Concert. Redmond O'Toole, one of the most innovative and exciting young guitarists in Europe plays a specially adapted 8-string cello style guitar. Winner of several awards, he studied in Brazil with Paul Galbraith and with John Feeley in the D.I.T. conservatory of Music. His debut CD, Movements was released in October 2006. Appearing on The View (RTE), Tuesday 16th Jan 2007.

NPWS HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday 24th January, 8:00pm

Lecture 1: From corals to cucumbers: Marine wildlife protection in Ireland, illustrated talk by Dr Eamonn Kelly, Marine Wildlife Inspector, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Eamonn will provide an overview of important marine habitats and species found in Co. Galway and off the west coast of Ireland. Some of the measures undertaken and the challenges faced in securing their protection will also be described.

POETRY AND MUSIC SERIES

Thursday 25th January, 8:00pm

An evening of poetry and piping with Terry McDonagh and Diarmaid Moynihan. Terry McDonagh has published several collections of poetry, including, BOXES, published in 2006. Diarmaid Moynihan is one of Ireland's finest Uilleann pipers and composers. He has toured extensively for many years with his own band, Calico and his music has been recorded by other traditional artists including Lunasa. Supported by Poetry Ireland

TRADITIONAL ARTS SERIES

Saturday 27th January, 8:00pm

Traditional concert with Mary McPartlan, singer, Eddie Lynch, piano (Donegal) and Garry Ó'Briain, guitar and mandocello. Songs and music from the international awardwinning CD, "The Holland Handkerchief". McPartlan's voice is gloriously earthy, as she breaks in her material for all their life-giving powers. Siobhán Long, The Irish Times.

NPWS HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday 31st January, 8:00pm

Lecture 2: Farming and Conservation in Ireland, illustrated lecture by Dr Andrew Bleasdale, Agri-environmental specialist, NPWS. This lecture will focus on the important role of agriculture and farming in the conservation of "heritage" in the widest sense of the word. Practical case studies will be discussed showing how agriculture can either be a positive or a negative force in the maintenance of biodiversity.

F E B R U A R Y

POETRY AND MUSIC SERIES

Thursday 1st February, 8:00pm

An evening of poetry and sean-nós with Louis de Paor and Naisrín Elsafty. Oíche Filíochta agus sean-nóis le Louis de Paor (file) agus Naisrín Elsafty (amhránaí). Poet, Louis de Paor will give a bilingual reading from his latest published collection, *Ag Greadadh Bas sa Reilig – Clapping in the Cemetery*. Naisrín Elsafty started singing aged 3 and is the winner of numerous awards. She will be the youngest ever contestant to compete in the Corn Uí Riada competition in Oireachtas 2007. Naisrín will sing a number of songs both light-hearted and sad.

HERITAGE WORKSHOP

Saturday 3rd February, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

A Spinning and Weaving Workshop with Patricia Kirwan-Doyle. Patricia is a textiles designer who specialises in demonstrating traditional crafts. Try your hand at spinning and weaving. Make your own wool straight from the fleece and try out simple weaving techniques. Numbers limited. Pre-booking essential for this event. Tel: 091 631804.

DRAMA SERIES

Saturday 3rd February, 8:00pm

Little John Nee presents *Star of Stage, Screen, and Street Corners*. Little John comes to Coole to perform his latest show, a selection of favourite vignettes from his theatre shows over the past ten years woven into an exciting, comedic and sometimes poignant evening's entertainment. Pre-booking essential for this event. Tel: 091 631804.

NPWS HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday 7th February, 8:00pm

Lecture 3: Nature Conservation in the Wild West, illustrated lecture by Dr Julie Fossitt, Divisional Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Julie will explore some issues around nature conservation and biodiversity protection based on her work in the Western Division (counties Galway, Clare and Mayo).

CULTURAL LECTURE SERIES

Thursday 8th February, 8:00pm

Lecture on *The Autograph Tree*. *Copperfastened*, an illustrated lecture by Sighle Meehan M.A., FLCM. Sighle will discuss the less well-known signatories of the Autograph Tree, the literary and artistic figures usually associated with Coole and will explore the cultural dynamic introduced by famous military and political personnel who visited Coole. Sighle Meehan is a member of the Lady Gregory Autumn Gathering since 1996.

CLASSICAL SERIES

Sunday 11th February, 7:30pm

Concert. Coole String Quartet presents 'From Beethoven to Joplin', an evening of String Quartet Music for everyone with Tom Murphy, violin, Fidelma Lenehan, violin, Katharina Baker, viola and Clare Sawtell, cello. 1 hour with no interval.

CULTURAL LECTURE SERIES

Thursday 15th February, 8:00pm

Lecture on Visual Arts. Yeats and imagery associated with the West of Ireland, an illustrated lecture by Dr Marie Bourke, Keeper and Head of Education, National Gallery of Ireland. Dr. Bourke will address the early work of Jack B Yeats in the context of figure and landscape and will explore his developing style in relation to the work of other 20th century Irish artists. Charles Lamb, Loch an Mhuillinn. Courtesy of the National Gallery of Ireland.

TRADITIONAL ARTS SERIES

Wednesday 21st February, 8:00pm

Singing Workshop with Mary McPartlan. Mary will talk about Francis J Child, collector of more than 150 international ballads. She will focus on five of Child's popular ballads and will present new examples of these songs. Audience participation and discussion.

HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

Thursday 22nd February, 8:00pm

Built Heritage: Fields of Vision – building in the rural landscape, illustrated lecture by Declan Molloy, Architect, Galway County Council. Declan will explore issues relating to the siting and design of rural housing. He will discuss perceptions of the landscape and how design should reflect the specifics of site context. He is the author of the 'Design Guidelines for the Single Rural House' for Galway County Council.

DRAMA SERIES

Friday 23rd February – Sunday 25th February

Annual Drama League of Ireland Winter School. An intensive training course for actors and directors with professional Tutor - to be announced. Places limited so book early. For more details, contact Dara 01 8749084 or e-mail dli@eircom.net, www.dli.ie

HERITAGE WALK

Sunday 25th February, 2:30pm

Guided Walk. Discover the wonders of the woods of Coole. A guided walk with Dr. Sasha Bosbeer, a forest ecologist, specialising in conservation and restoration of native woodlands. Suitable for adults and older children. Please bring suitable walking boots and raingear. Duration: 2 hours. Meet at visitor centre. In the event of bad weather, Sasha will present an illustrated talk on the native trees of Coole in the visitor centre.

DRAMA SERIES

Tuesday 27th February, 8:00pm

Blue Teapot Theatre present their new show, Lock up those owl comedians, a tale about a troupe of actors who get thrown in jail for being too different. To prove their innocence they perform a play to change the judge's mind. This show is for the clients of the Orchard Centre and their families. Supported by The Friends of Coole and the Orchard Centre.

NPWS HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday 28th February, 8:00pm

Lecture 4: Habitats and their residents, illustrated lecture by David Silke, former wildlife ranger, NPWS. David will explore various habitats including raised bogs, turloughs and callows and their associated flora and fauna.

MARCH

TRADITIONAL ARTS SERIES

Thursday 1st March, 8:00pm

Lecture: Atlantic Bridge: The Journey of Irish Traditional Music to the Apalachian Mountains. P.J. Curtis, M.A. (Hon), broadcaster, record producer and author will explore the journey of music from Ireland to America and its influence on bluegrass, old-timey and country music. Lecture illustrated with recordings. Supported by the Centre for Irish Studies, NUIG.

DRAMA SERIES

Saturday 3rd March, 8:00pm

Reading by Druid actress, Marie Mullen, award-winning performances in DruidSynge. Readings and observations about Lady Gregory's life and times. Marie Mullen will read a selection from Lady Gregory's works. Pre-booking essential for this event. Tel: 091 631804

CLASSICAL SERIES

Sunday 4th March, 7:30pm

Choral Concert. Orbsen Singers from NUIG sing a wide selection of choral work from sacred to barbershop. 1 hour with no interval.

HERITAGE COURSE

Reading the Landscape: Coole Park and its Environs

Monday, 15th January to Monday, 5th March, 8:00 pm Admission free

This course has been organised by the Friends of Coole in partnership with County Galway Heritage Forum, Galway County Council and the NPWS.

Series of Lectures:

Monday 15th January, 8pm–10pm

Coole and Environs in Pre-historic and Medieval Times
by Paul Gosling, Archaeologist and Lecturer, GMIT

Monday 22nd January, 8pm–10pm

Limestone Landscape: Living Landscape
by Gordon D'Arcy, Environmentalist, Artist and Writer

Monday 29th January, 8pm–10pm

East Galway's Heritage in Stone and Stained Glass
by Dr. Peter Harbison, Archaeologist, Author and Member of Royal Irish Academy

Monday 5th February, 8pm–10pm

Coole and Kiltartan: Land and People
by Sr. deLourdes Fahy, Local Historian

Monday 12th February, 8pm–10pm

Coole Park in the Irish Natural Landscape
by Éanna Ní Lamhna, Broadcaster, Ecologist & President of An Taisce

Monday 19th February, 8pm–10pm

Aspects of the Big House in East Galway and some of the inhabitants
by John Joe Conwell, M.A.

Monday 26th February, 8pm–10pm

Coole Park: A Special Place
by Tim O'Connell, Regional Manager, NPWS

Monday 5th March, 8pm–10pm

Landscape and Literature from Edmund Burke to W.B. Yeats
by Dr. Riana O'Dwyer, Senior Lecturer, Department of English, NUIG

Field Trips

Saturday 24th March

Exploring the Landscape of Coole and Garryland
led by Gordon D'Arcy.

Saturday 7th April

Discovering Hidden Treasures in South Galway
led by Dr. Peter Harbison.

*This course was first advertised in January 2006 and presented in January – March 2006. Due to the response and level of interest, it was decided to repeat the course in 2007. The members of the public who responded to the initial advertisement have been contacted and invited to pre-book their places on the course. A limited number of places may be available. If you are interested in attending the course, please contact Ms Gráinne Smyth, Galway County Council. Tel: 091 509121 or e-mail gsmyth@galwaycoco.ie.
An action of Galway County Heritage Plan 2004-2008*

ARTS AND HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS: SPRING 2007

Over 1,000 schoolchildren from primary schools in Galway and Clare attended the Coole Park education programme in October and November 2006. Primary schools have been invited to participate in the Spring 2007 programme. The details are:

VISITOR CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Guided Tour of New Exhibition with Hilda MacLochlainn, Screening of a selection of FIONN Science Project DVD's and Audio Visual on Lady Gregory.

NATURE RESERVE ACTIVITIES

Preparatory talk in visitor centre followed by field trips in Coole Nature Reserve with Gordon D'Arcy, Éanna Ní Lamhna and Dolores Keegan.

SERIES OF DRAMA WORKSHOPS

THE ARK COMES TO COOLE PARK

January 9th - 12th & 18th - 19th 10am – 2pm daily

The Ark, Europe's first custom-built Childrens' Cultural Centre presents a touring workshop. Inklings is a highly accessible illustration, story writing and bookbinding workshop for 8-12 yr olds. During a four hour workshop, up to 30 children work with two experienced artists, Liz Smith and Laura de Búrca to realise their personal narratives and ideas into a unique book that is theirs to keep. Supported by Galway Rural Development.

ARCHIVES RESOURCE BOX WORKSHOPS

January 24th - 25th 10am – 2pm

The Archives Resource Box was produced by The Abbey Theatre and is an educational resource containing copies of artefacts and memorabilia including photographs, newspapers, programmes and letters which illuminate the early history and tradition of The National Theatre. Joanna Parkes will facilitate drama workshops animating the Archive Resource Box with specific reference to the role played by Lady Gregory. Supported by Galway Rural Development.

CUPS AND CROWNS EDUCATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY

January 23rd 10am – 2pm

Cups and Crowns Educational Theatre Company present their new show, Grandad says. The story begins on an ordinary day when Seán and Martha visit their Grandad. Granddad Says... is imaginative, innovative, and inspiring, and provides a perfect introduction to the magic of theatre. The play bridges the gap between young and old, involving them both in the magic of

storytelling and the children gain a deeper understanding of growing old. Suitable for 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes. The production includes a pre-performance workshop which explores the play's themes and production elements. Supported by The Arts Council & Galway County Council

January 31st & February 1st

Fiona McDonagh (Cups and Crowns) will facilitate drama workshops on developing imagination. Using specific drama exercises and activities, students will be encouraged to create characters and stories from their imagination using Coole Park as inspiration.

Writers in Residence in Schools

The Friends of Coole are delighted to support two writers in residence in schools as part of the Spring Programme 2007. John Quinn will work with students from Gort Convent and Terry McDonagh will work with Lough Cutra NS. Each writer will conduct a series of 8 creative writing workshops with the schools. Supported by Poetry Ireland, The Friends of Coole, Galway County Council and participating schools.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Winter and Spring Programmes 2005/2006 were organised as a pilot programme. Due to the positive response from the public and from schools, the NPWS invited the Friends of Coole and other partner agencies to continue the programme in Winter 2006 and Spring 2007. This Programme has been made possible by the support of several agencies and individuals. The Friends of Coole sincerely thank the following for their contribution: The management and staff of National Parks and Wildlife Services, Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, Ireland West, Bernard Kirk and Staff of The Galway Education Centre, The Arts Council, Bank of Ireland, Gort, Liz Smith and The Ark, Joanna Parkes, Fiona McDonagh and members of Cups and Crowns Theatre Co., Terry McDonagh and John Quinn. Madeleine Flanagan and Classicallinks, Dr Louis de Paor & The Centre for Irish Studies, NUIG, Katharina Baker, Director Coole Music, students and teachers, Gordon D'Arcy, Dolores Keegan, Dr. Sasha Bosbeer, Brendan Smith for Fionn DVD's, All the Artists, Musicians, Puppeteers, Singers and Lecturers in the programme, Caroline and Amanda at Castle Print, Cepta Quinn catering, Tommy Baker, Jane O'Hanlon and Poetry Ireland, Gráinne Smyth, Derek Smith & The Orchard Centre, All the teachers and schools who responded to the education programme. Sincere thanks to Hilda MacLochlainn, Head Guide, Coole Park and to Louise Ryan, who co-ordinated this programme on behalf of the Friends of Coole. To anybody we have omitted our sincere apologies and our thanks.

For further information on any of the events in this programme, please contact Hilda MacLochlainn Coole Park, 091 631804 or visit www.coolepark.ie

FREE ADMISSION.

Admission to ALL events in the programme is free. Seating is limited and the public will be accommodated on a first come first served basis. To avoid disappointment people are advised to come early.