

The Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates,
History Department, Maynooth University, presents
The 16th Annual Historic Houses Conference

THE COUNTRY HOUSE Sport & Leisure



Maynooth University, 8-9 June 2018

SUPPORTED BY:



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth
1997-2017



**HISTORIC IRISH
HOUSES & ESTATES**
Láimh na h-Éireann na hÉireann

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The theme of the Sixteenth Annual Historic Houses Conference, to be held at Maynooth University on 8-9 June 2018, will be **'The Country House: Sport and Leisure'**.

Throughout Ireland, Britain, and Europe country houses were designed to impress, inspire, beguile but perhaps most of all to entertain; they became centres of hospitality and leisure where days were filled with all manner of activities including dining and photography, artistic pursuits and theatricals, from blind-man's buff to taxidermy. The Country House was where marital matches were made, political alliances cemented, and wealth displayed. Lavish entertainment was often the means of achieving these ends.

Recreation in the Country House was not confined to the indoors. The estate's parkland was frequently utilised for the entertainment of family, friends, indoor staff and estate employees. From the slow pace of gardening to the fast pace of carriage driving, estates were a hive of activity. Within the demesne walls archery, croquet and shooting were a matter-of-course. Moving into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the use of estate lands for football, cricket, golf and other sports played a key role in opening up demesnes to the wider community.

Sport and leisure also provided a means for the elite to engage with the local community. Hunting, racing and yachting provided entertainment not only for landlords and their society, but also a spectacle for the wider community. Estate tenants and employees pursued their own leisure and sporting activities, sometimes thanks to landlord benevolence and sponsorship, at other times in direct opposition to landlordism, for example, 'stopping the hunt' in Ireland during the Land War of the 1880s was a leisure pursuit in its own right.

Over the past century countless historic houses have continued to become more outward facing and have become attractive visitor destinations in their own right. Sport and leisure continues to play a significant role in this transformation, and in creating an attraction that appeals to a wide cross-section of the public whose idea of leisure and recreation includes cultural tourism.



DAY I FRIDAY 8TH JUNE

09.00-09.30 Registration and coffee

09.30-10.00 Welcome

10.10-11.30 **PANEL 1A: Cricket and the Country House**

Thomas McCarthy

The Cappoquin XI: Cricket and the Cappoquin Estate

Thomas Hunt

Cricket and The Big House: the Avondale Perspective

Jo Grocott

Playing the Game: Cricket at Sheffield Park, East Sussex

Q&A

10.10-11.30 **PANEL 1B: Entertaining and Big House Society**

Caroline & Jane Blunden

Shooting Arrows, Swing Boats and Scavenger Hunts:
Childhood Fun in the Country House

Anne Casement

'Oh What Lovely Fun!' – Parties at Mount Stewart

Julian Walton

The Colourful Life of Henry de la Poer Beresford,
Third ('Sporting') Marquess of Waterford (1811-1859)

Q&A

11.40-12.30 **PANEL 2A: Sport and Big House Society**

Ciarán Reilly

'Ill-gotten Acres': The G.A.A. and the Irish Country House

Declan O'Keeffe

'All the Other Boots and Legs Ran After' – The Long Life and
Slow Death of 'Gravel' Football

Q&A

11.40-12.30 **PANEL 2B: Gamekeeping**

Peter Mullaney

Gamekeepers in Connacht

Einion Thomas

Keepers, Pheasants, Poachers and Politics: The Rhiwlas Estates,
Bala, North Wales

Q&A



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12.30-13.45 Lunch

13.45-14.45 **PANEL 3A: Work, Play and Duty across the Demesne**

Allen Warren

The Landed Classes, Open Spaces and the Boy Scouts
1908 to 1930

Paul Gunning

The Irish Harvest Home, 1830-80

Q&A

13.45-14.45 **PANEL 3B: The Country House, Leisure and Outdoor Pursuits**

Gerwyn James

'A Great Benefit to Agricultural Areas' or 'A Nursery for Foolishness and Recklessness'? The Ploughing Matches of Wales before the Great War

Antonia Laurence-Allen

Sport and Leisure: the Modernisation and Gentrification of Life at the Hill of Tarvit in Fife

Q&A

14.45-16.00 **PANEL 4A: The Hunt**

Fergal Browne

'U is for Union, the Name of our Hunt' – The South Union Hunt in the Lives of the South Cork Gentry

Stephen Mahony

The Big House and Hunting over the Centuries

Laura Servilan Browne

Edith Somerville and the West Carbery Hunt, 1898-1919

Q&A

14.45-16.00 **PANEL 4B: Objects, Exotica and Astronomy**

Maeve O'Riordan

'Going in for Art': Women as Objects, Consumers and Practitioners of Art in the Irish Country House, 1860-1914

Kerry Bristol

Marmosets and Mynah Birds: Exotica at Nostell Priory, 1765-85

Lesley Whiteside

Amateur Astronomy in the 19th-Century Irish Country House: the Observatory at Monksgrange, County Wexford

Q&A



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16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.30 **Edward Richards-Orpen Memorial Lecture**

Philip Bull

Travel, Hospitality and Entertainment: the Richards and Orpen families, 1860 to 1960

19.00 Drinks reception

19.30 Conference dinner

DAY 2 SATURDAY 9TH JUNE

09.00-09.30 Registration (Day Attendees)

9.30-10.30 **PANEL 1: Water Sports**

Vincent Delany

An Irish Country House in Roscommon and Aquatic Sport and Leisure

Oonagh Kennedy

Out on the Water: Rowing and Canoeing with the Astors at Cliveden

Ian d'Alton

'With the Last of the Out-running Tide We Crept Away to the West' – the Sport and Status of Sailing in the Gentry's World from the 1830s to the 1920s

10.30-11.30 **PANEL 2: Sport, Leisure and Politics**

Brian Griffin

The Country House and Sport and Leisure during the Great Famine

Tony McCarthy

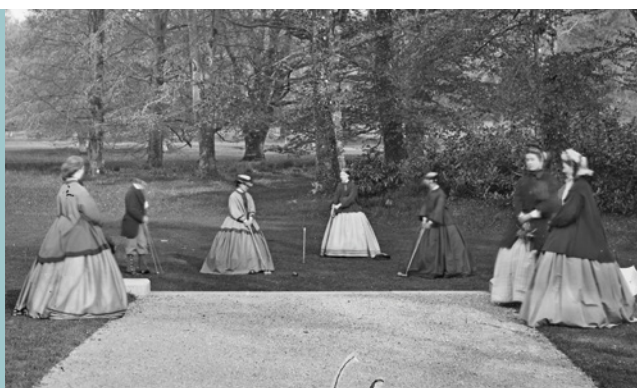
A Sporting Politician – George Wyndham (1863–1913)

Eugene Dunne

Harry Worcester Smith and the Westmeath Hunt, a curious experiment

Q&A

12.00-13.00 Lunch



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13.00-14.00 **PANEL 3: Racing**

Oliver Cox

Jockeying for Position? The Cultural, Social and Political Importance of Horse Racing in Eighteenth-Century Britain

Elizabeth Jamieson

'Women on Wheels': Carriage Driving and Cycling – a Welcome Escape from the Confines of the Victorian Country House

Ion Hamilton

Ireland's Big Houses and the Sport of Kings

14.00-15.00 **PANEL 4: Sport and Leisure on display**

George Gossip

A Suitable Pastime for Ladies – Painting and Drawing in Irish Country Houses

Annie Tindley

Sport on the Wall: the Nineteenth-Century Boom in Sporting Taxidermy

Orla Fitzpatrick

Photography, Femininity and Leisure: Augusta Crofton Dillon's Photographic Practice, 1865 to 1895

Q&A

15.15-15.45 Coffee break

15.45-17.00 **The Contemporary View**

Neil Watt

The Renaissance and Relevancy of an Irish Country House and Estate – Mount Stewart in the 21st Century

Christopher Ridgway

The Historic House in the 21st Century: Leisure, Pleasure, and Treasure – For Whom?



CSHIHE 15th Annual Historic Houses of Ireland Conference

Maynooth University, 8-9 June 2018 (RIAI CPD approved)

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

TO REGISTER ON LINE (WHERE PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD) PLEASE GO TO
<http://shop.nuim.ie/index.php?app=ecom&ns=prodshow&ref=1850033>

IF YOU CHOSE THIS METHOD OF REGISTRATION PLEASE **DO NOT** FILL IN THE BOOKING FORM BELOW.

ALTERNATIVELY IF YOU WISH TO PAY BY CHEQUE **MADE PAYABLE TO CSHIHE** PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND RETURN WITH THE RELEVANT BOOKING FEE TO THE CSHIHE, JUNIOR INFIRMARY, SOUTH CAMPUS, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE BY **THURSDAY 31 MAY 2018**.

BOOKING FORM

Two-day conference only fee	€90 per person	Number of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
One-day conference only fee	€50 per person	Number of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
		Indicate day:	<input type="text"/>
Student two-day conference only fee*	€70 per person	Number of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
Student one-day conference only fee*	€40 per person	Number of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
		Indicate day:	<input type="text"/>
Conference Dinner	€50 per person	Number of attendees:	<input type="text"/>

*Valid student card must be presented by those availing of discounted rates.

Total amount enclosed € Payment must be made in euro only.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

First name(s):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Surname(s):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail or postal address(es):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone no(s):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Institutional affiliation/position (if any):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dietary or other requirements:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

PLEASE NOTE: Parking permits are not required for the duration of the conference. Attendees may park on South Campus, outside of the designated pay parking areas without charge.

BOOKING INFORMATION

*** Places will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis for the conference and dinner.** Payment of conference registration fee and/or conference dinner fee must be received to guarantee a booking. Receipt of payment will be acknowledged by e-mail unless otherwise requested. Refunds for cancelled bookings will not be made.

Please note that information provided above (name, institutional affiliation and e-mail address only) may be compiled into a delegates listing to be distributed at the conference. Please tick here if you do not wish your information to be included in the delegates list ☐

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