



- All lectures will be held in Tipperary County Museum, Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel Co Tipperary.
- Lectures will commence at 10am and finish at 12noon, refreshments will be provided.
- A fee of €50 for the series applies but those who sign up for the full series will receive a discount entitling them to 1 free lecture. The cost of the fieldtrip is not included in this and will be subject to sufficient numbers.
- Those who only wish to attend specific lectures can pay €5 per session.
- To book a place and avail of discount or for further information please contact Julia by 31st July on 076 106 5564 or email julia.walsh@tipperarycoco.ie



The Big House in Tipperary - County Museum Lecture Series 2014/2015

Tipperary County Museum's lecture series The Big House in Tipperary aims to highlight the rich architectural and historic tradition of the County and shed new light on the people, places and events that shaped this fascinating period in our County's history. With diverse topics from the role of women, to furniture and interiors, to the social life of the family, to the life of servants, and the role of landlords, there is something to interest all. The opportunity to access objects and archives from some of the County's Big Houses and to handle replica artefacts adds another dimension to the series and is a new departure for Tipperary County Museum. Culminating in a fieldtrip which allows participants to see in reality many of the points discussed in the series, we hope you will enjoy our programme.

No	Date	Speaker	Subject
Lecture 1	Sat 6th Sept 2014	Dr Rachel Finnegan, WIT	Introduction & Context
Lecture 2	Sat 4th Oct 2014	Dr Maeve O' Riordan, UCC	The Role of Women in the Irish Country House, 1860-1914
Lecture 3	Sat 1st Nov 2014	Prof Wm Smyth, UCC	Landlord & Estate
Lecture 4	Sat 6th Dec 2014	Finola Reid, Historic Gardens Consultant	Survival and Revival - Ireland's Historic Gardens and Demesne Landscapes
Lecture 5	Sat 10th Jan 2015	Jennifer McCrea, The Irish Heritage Trust	Stories from the Backstairs - Domestic Service in the Big House
Lecture 6	Sat 7th Feb 2015	Pat Holland	Photography & Other Pastimes
Lecture 7	Sat 7th March 2015	Kerry Mullaly	Paradise Lost - the demise and dispersal of the Irish Country House Interior
Lecture 8	Sat 11th April 2015	Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam	The Social World of the Landed Class in Tipperary
Lecture 9	Sat 2nd May 2015	Mellisa Shiels, Iryshe Tudor Compayne	Handling/Interactive Session
Lecture 10	Sat 6th June 2015	Barry O'Reilly	The Larger Houses of County Tipperary
Lecture 11	Sat 4th July 2015		Fieldtrip



Lecture 1 • Introduction & Context

Sat 6th September 2014
Dr Rachel Finnegan, WIT



Dr Rachel Finnegan has a BA and a PhD in Classical Philology, as well as a Certificate in Irish Archaeology. She studied for two years at the British School of Archaeology at Athens and on

her return worked for several years in the Royal Irish Academy. Since 1994 she has lectured in the School of Humanities at Waterford Institute of Technology, where she is currently Programme Leader for the MA in Arts & Heritage Management. She has published widely on the subject of eighteenth-century travel, collecting and connoisseurship and her most recent books include a new edition of Richard Twiss, *A Tour in Ireland in 1775* (UCD Press, 2008) and an edition in 3 volumes of Richard Pococke's previously unpublished *Grand Tour correspondence* (Pococke Press, 2011-13).

In order to set the context for the whole lecture series, this illustrated presentation provides an overview of the Big House in Irish society. It examines the various sources for the study of the Big House, and, with particular reference to local examples, considers its important and at times sadly neglected place in Ireland's architectural heritage.



Image courtesy of Dr Maeve O'Riordan

Lecture 2 • The Role of Women in the Irish Country House, 1860-1914

Sat 4th October 2014
Dr Maeve O'Riordan, UCC



Dr. Maeve O'Riordan completed her PhD 'Home, family and society: women of the Irish landed class, 1860-1914' at UCC in 2013, where she is currently working as a part-time lecturer.

She has published articles on the roles and experiences of women in the Irish Country House; finding that such women had greater freedom and authority than has been assumed.

Women of the Irish country house have been consistently passed over as inanimate child-bearers, conveyors of dowries, or aging financial drains on landed estates. This lecture will breathe life into the experiences of women of the landed class during the period 1860-1914. They played important roles; not just in childbearing, but also in areas such as hosting, household management and philanthropy. Many of these women led fulfilling lives, and were deemed to be essential to the success of family and estate by their contemporaries. This lecture draws on extensive research into the private letters, diaries, photographs and accounts. It will provide a greater understanding of the roles and experiences of the women of the Munster landed class, during a period now known as the 'Twilight' years of the ascendancy.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
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Lecture 3 • Landlord & Estate

Sat 1st November 2014
Prof Wm Smyth, UCC



Prof. William Smyth is Emeritus Professor of Geography at UCC. He is the author of the prize-winning book *Mapmaking, Landscapes and Memory* (Cork U. P. 2006) and joint-editor of *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine* (Cork U. P. 2012).

This lecture will illustrate the particular roles of landlords and the estate system in shaping Tipperary's societies and landscapes with special reference to the Shanbally/Clogheen estate of the O'Callaghans, Viscounts Lismore.



Image courtesy of Finola Reid

Lecture 4 • Survival and Revival - Ireland's Historic Gardens and Demesne Landscapes

Sat 6th December 2014
Finola Reid - Historic Gardens Consultant



Finola Reid is a gardens consultant specialising in conservation and restoration projects in historic gardens and demesnes throughout Ireland. She trained in horticulture

in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. Her extensive knowledge and experience of plants, gardens and demesnes throughout Ireland stretches over 45 years of practice. She is on the steering committee for the NIAH 'Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes' and The Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Committee.

As a freelance historic gardens consultant Finola has been researching, recording and archiving material on Irish demesne landscapes for many years. In this lecture she will illustrate a varied selection of demesne landscapes that are struggling to survive - or are managing to keep some features intact. She will give an overview of recent research and works that have given some historical sites a new lease of life while others have entirely 'bit the dust' or utterly changed. Is Tipperary protecting its legacy of historic demesnes?



Image courtesy of Jennifer McCrea

Lecture 5 • Stories from the Backstairs - Domestic Service in the Big House

Sat 10th January 2015
Jennifer McCrea, The Irish Heritage Trust



Jennifer McCrea specialises in audience development and interpretation. She studied the History of Art at Trinity College, Dublin and holds an MA in Museum Studies from

the University of Leicester. Over the last five years she has designed and delivered audience development and engagement initiatives with the Irish Heritage Trust. Jennifer has had numerous works published including a series entitled *Aspects of Fota*.

This talk explores the service wing of the Irish big house and looks at what life was really like for a domestic servant, whether a footman, scullery maid, governess, butler or head gardener. It also throws light onto the strictly ordered environment of the service wing, where servants' main role was to discreetly and efficiently provide the framework for a lifestyle that they enabled but that invariably remained closed to them. Some fascinating themes are explored including the strictly observed pecking order below stairs, the tasks and responsibilities of servants and the co-dependency between family and servant.



Lecture 6 • Photography and Other Pastimes

Sat 7th February 2015
Pat Holland



Pat Holland holds two degrees in archaeology and is a past curator of Tipperary County Museum. He has an interest in historic photography and has published a book on the work of Dr. W. D. Hemphill, an early Clonmel photographer.

His lecture will look at the photographic history of South Tipperary, and some adjoining areas, in the context of the Big House, to see what we can learn about the life of the Big House and those who lived and worked within it from the 'shadows on glass'.



Lecture 7 • Paradise Lost - the demise and dispersal of the Irish Country House Interior

Sat 7th March 2015
Kerry Mullaly



Kerry Mullaly is an antique furniture dealer and auctioneer specialising in 18th and early 19th Century European furniture. He has been involved in the restoration,

furnishing and re-presentation of several of Ireland's Great Houses, both as a supplier of furniture, architectural and decorative objects, as well as acting in a consultancy capacity with both private and public sector clients. He has published various articles, appeared on television and radio and co-ordinated the *Antiques for Everyone* Lecture series.

Kerry's presentation will focus on items particular to the Big House and also the demise and dispersal of the Irish Country House Interior making reference to the dispersal sales of the 60's 70's and early 80's and discuss "where are they now" with regard to important pieces that have found new homes.



Lecture 8 • The Social World of the Landed Class in Tipperary

Sat 11th April 2015
Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam



Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam is an author and lecturer on aspects of Irish social and cultural history. Previously an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the National University of

Ireland Maynooth, Karol has a particular research interest in the historical use of music and dance as social observances and markers of identity.

Karol's lecture will look at the social world of the landed classes in Tipperary. As public demonstrations of power and prestige, hospitality and entertainments were significant aspects of life for regional landowners and their associates. This illustrated lecture provides an overview of the social world of the landed class in South Tipperary, from their ascendancy in the 18th century through their decline in the 19th to their demise in the 20th. Occasions for merriment both within the 'big house' and on the demesne will be described, highlighting the purpose and place of activities like music-making and social dancing in the lives of landed family members as well as their employees and tenants. Using examples of festivities surrounding births, marriages, comings-of-age and harvest gatherings, issues regarding social class, norms and expectations will also be addressed.



Image courtesy of Melissa Shiels

Lecture 9 • Handling/Interactive Session

Sat 2nd May 2015
Mellisa Shiels - Iryshe Tudor Compayne



Melissa Shiels is a Heritage Expert with the Heritage in Schools Scheme operated by the Heritage Council, specialising in the daily life of Irish and European peoples from Viking

times to Victorian. She carefully recreates the clothing and everyday accoutrements from numerous time periods and invites the public to handle the objects that made up daily life for thousands of years.

This interactive display focuses on life in the Big House for the ladies and gentlemen who lived there. With many examples of replicated clothing from the 1860s in particular, participants will be able to experience and handle many extant artefacts from the Victorian era. With everyday items such as writing sets and letter holders, Georgian teapots and silver spirit kettles participants can get a feel of the high life in times past.



Image courtesy of Barry O'Reilly

Lecture 10 • The Larger Houses of County Tipperary

Sat 6th June 2015
Barry O'Reilly



Barry managed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage surveys of north and south Tipperary. He has an MA (in vernacular architecture) and a Masters of Urban and Building

Conservation from University College Dublin and a PhD from Oxford Brookes University in the UK. He has lectured and guided walking tours many times on the architecture of County Tipperary. He lives near Fethard.

This talk will concentrate on the architecture of the larger houses throughout County Tipperary. It will also mention some of the architects involved and make connections with the county at large. The distributions of houses and their relationship to demesnes and towns/villages will also figure. While focusing on the standing buildings surveyed by the NIAH, reference will also be made to some of those buildings that have disappeared.