



**Power &  
Privilege -  
The Butlers  
of Ormond**

**2015/2016**

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**County Museum  
Lecture Series**

# Power & Privilege - The Butlers of Ormond

## 2015/2016 County Museum Lecture Series

Noblemen, Chief Butlers to the King, property and titles - from the arrival of Theobald Fitzwalter with Prince John in the 12th Century to the heights of Earls and Dukes, The Butlers of Ormond gained power and influence with almost every generation. Their legacy has given us some of our greatest national monuments such as Ormond Castle in Carrick on Suir, the famous lament Cad a dhéanfamid feasta gan adhmaid, and such colourful personalities as Black Tom the 10th Earl and the story of the Cromwellian siege of Clonmel. This lecture series aims to shine a spot light on some of these stories and to separate the myth from the reality. The variety of speakers and their knowledge and passion for their subject makes this a lecture series not to be missed. A fieldtrip to see some of the Butler strongholds will help bring to life many of the aspects discussed in the lectures.

	DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
2015	Lecture 1 Sat 3rd Oct	David Edwards	Introductory Lecture
	Lecture 2 Sat 7th Nov	Ciaran Brady	James 9th & Thomas 10th Earls of Ormond
	Lecture 3 Sat 5th Dec	David J. Butler	The Cahir Estate under Butler and Charteris Ownership, 1858-1962
2016	Lecture 4 Sat 9th Jan	Phil Flood	Cad a dhéanfamid feasta gan adhmaid?
	Lecture 5 Sat 6th Feb	Con Manning	The building heritage of the Butlers in Co. Tipperary
	Lecture 6 Sat 5th March	Micheál Ó Siochrú	Ormond, Cromwell and the battle for Ireland 1649-1650
	Lecture 7 Sat 2nd April	Regina Sexton	Gaelic and Anglo Norman Ireland: different foods, different identities?
	Lecture 8 Sat 7th May	Jane Fenlon	Brave Mansions: The 10th Earl of Ormond's buildings at Kilkenny and Ormond Castle
	Lecture 9 Sat 11th June	Dave Swift Melissa Shiels	Material Culture in Ireland c.1500-1660 Lifestyles of the Tudor Rich and Famous

LECTURE

01



### Introductory Lecture

Sat 3rd October 2015

**David Edwards**



**Biography:** David Edwards is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History in University College, Cork. His research interests include developments in sixteenth and early seventeenth century Ireland from a variety of local and regional perspectives. His 2003 study of *The Ormond Lordship in Co Kilkenny 1515 - 1642* drew on the enormous Ormond archive in the National Library of Ireland and The Bodleian Library and explored the fortunes of the family and its subjects through both the Tudor and early Stuart colonisation and Protestantisation of the country. He has published widely.

**Synopsis:** David will deliver the introductory lecture. Drawing on his research of the family for his book *The Rise and Fall of Butler Feudal Power*, he will discuss key issues concerning the fortunes of the Butler dynasty.

LECTURE

02



### James 9th & Thomas 10th Earls of Ormond

Sat 7th November 2015

**Ciaran Brady**



**Biography:** Ciaran Brady is Professor of History in Trinity College, Dublin. He researches and writes on Irish and English history in the sixteenth and early seventeenth century and in particular the relations between the Gaelic Irish lordships and the English government. He has also written many articles and edited numerous books on the theory and practice of history writing.

**Synopsis:** This lecture will look at the lives of two of the Earls of Ormond - James the 9th Earl and Thomas the 10th Earl, more popularly known as Black Tom and the builder of the Manor House at Carrick on Suir.

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LECTURE

03



## The Cahir Estate under Butler and Charteris Ownership, 1858 - 1962

Sat 5th December 2015

**David J. Butler**



**Biography:** An historical geographer by training David is course director of Certificate in History of Family and Genealogical Methods at the University of Limerick, where he is also Academic Director of The Irish Ancestry Research Centre. At University College Cork, he teaches at the department of Geography and the Centre for Adult Continuing Education, where in addition to coordinating a number of modules, he is academic coordinator of the NUI Diploma in Genealogy.

**Synopsis:** This paper looks at the management and daily life on The Cahir Estate from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. In 1858, Lady Margaret Charteris, eldest and only surviving child of Richard Butler, 2nd and last Earl of Glengall, inherited her father's extensive estate at Cahir; the same year she married the Honourable Richard Charteris, second son of the 8th Earl of Wemyss and March. She was succeeded by her eldest son, Richard Butler Charteris, who lived at Caher from 1915 until his death in 1961. The contribution of both to the employment and civic life of town and district will be examined.

LECTURE

04



## Cad a dhéanfamid feasta gan adhmad?

Sat 9th January 2016

**Phil Flood**



**Biography:** Born and reared in the Ballypatrick/Kilcass area, the history of the locality has always held a fascination for Phil Flood. The story of Kilcass Castle and its occupants has been of particular interest due, in no small measure, to the wealth of material available. As a result of this interest, also shared by her son John, Kilcass 1190 -1801 was published in 1999.

**Synopsis:** The ruins of the old Tower House at Kilcass are a familiar feature on the landscape as you travel to Kilkenny from Clonmel. Familiarly referred to as Kilcass Castle it generally evokes memories of laborious learning in days gone by of the Caoineadh, Cad a dhéanfamid feasta gan adhmad? Who wrote this poem? Who or what is it about? This talk looks at the origin of the poem, some translations of the poem and aspects of the Butler family of Kilcass who are mentioned in it.

LECTURE

05



## The building heritage of the Butlers in Co. Tipperary

Sat 6th February 2016

**Con Manning**



**Biography:** Conleth Manning is a Senior Archaeologist with the National Monuments Service and has directed archaeological excavations at many medieval sites in Ireland including Dublin

Castle, Roscrea Castle and the Rock of Cashel. He has a particular interest in medieval castles and churches.

**Synopsis:** This lecture will deal with aspects of the Butlers from the late twelfth century up to the late seventeenth century and discuss their relationship with Co. Tipperary through their surviving castles and other buildings. This time-span is bookended by Nenagh Castle at one end and the Main Guard in Clonmel at the other and castles such as Roscrea, Cahir, Kilcash, Grallagh and Carrick-on-Suir will be discussed.

LECTURE

06



## Ormond, Cromwell and the battle for Ireland 1649-1650

Sat 5th March 2016

**Micheál Ó Siochru**



**Biography:** Micheál Ó Siochru is associate professor of History at Trinity College Dublin. He is the author of numerous books on seventeenth century Ireland and Britain, including God's

Executioner: Oliver Cromwell and the conquest of Ireland (Faber & Faber, 2009). He also scripted and presented the award-winning documentary on Oliver Cromwell for RTÉ.

**Synopsis:** In August 1649, Oliver Cromwell landed in Dublin with an army of 12,000 men, determined to avenge the massacres of 1641 and reassert English control of Ireland. Standing in his way, was James Butler, Marquis of Ormond, who led an uneasy coalition of English/Irish Protestant royalists and Irish Catholic confederates. For the next nine months war raged on the eastern and southern coasts of Ireland, culminating in the dramatic siege of Clonmel in May 1650. Contrary to traditional historical accounts, this lecture will argue that the outcome of this war was far from inevitable and in fact that Ormond squandered a number of opportunities to defeat the English New Model Army and drive Cromwell out of Ireland.

LECTURE

07



## Gaelic and Anglo Norman Ireland: different foods, different identities?

Sat 2nd April 2016

**Regina Sexton**



**Biography:** Regna Sexton UCC is a food historian, food writer, broadcaster and cook. She has been researching and publishing in the area of Irish food and culinary history since

1993. Her research interests include food and identity, food and tradition and food and the Irish country house. She has published widely at academic and popular levels. Her publications include *A Little History of Irish Food* (Gill & Macmillan, 1998) and *Ireland's Traditional Foods* (Teagasc, 1997).

**Synopsis:** While the Anglo Norman presence in Ireland has been analysed from many perspectives, little attention has been given to examining how the presence of new groups and settlers influenced dietary and culinary change. Drawing on documentary material, this presentation will argue that by the later medieval period Ireland was home to a number of dietary systems that differed in accordance with social rank, region and access to market and where the choice and treatment of ingredients was a mark of wealth, location and cultural outlook. It will argue that different approaches to food, cookery and indeed taste preferences, differentiated the Gaelic Irish from the newcomers.

LECTURE

08



## Brave Mansions: The 10th Earl of Ormond's buildings at Kilkenny and Ormond Castle

Sat 7th May 2016

**Jane Fenlon**



**Biography:** Jane Fenlon, Ph. D. Currently, Projects Advisor to National Heritage Properties, OPW, Dublin Castle. Dr Fenlon has lectured in TCD, UCD, UCC and published extensively on

Irish Art and Architecture of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Her publications include, *The Ormonde Picture Collection*, (Kinsale, 2000), *The Dukes of Ormonde 1610-1745* editors, Toby Barnard and Jane Fenlon (Woodbridge, 2000), *Goods and Chattels, A Survey of Household Inventories in Ireland*, (Dublin, 2003) and *Clanricard's Castle Portumna House, Co. Galway*, edit. Jane Fenlon, (Dublin, 2012), contributor to vols ii [Painting], and iii [Architecture] *Art and Architecture of Ireland*, RIA (Yale UP, 2014)

**Synopsis:** This talk will discuss aspects of the buildings at Kilkenny Castle and Carrick House that are linked to the 10th earl of Ormond. These were constructed during the turbulent period of Elizabethan conquest in Ireland and against the background of New English settlement in the country. These buildings hold information about the religious and cultural changes that were taking place at that time. Renaissance influences on plans and decoration of buildings are still evident today, particularly at Carrick.



Image courtesy of Dave Swift

## Material Culture in Ireland 1500 - 1660

Sat 11th June 2016

**Dave Swift**



**Biography:** Dave has worked as a field archaeologist in Ireland since 1999. He lectures regularly all over Ireland at various venues, including OPW (Office of Public Works) sites,

at Irish Walled Town Network events and at various Castles and heritage sites across the island, specialising on topics relating to Irish military history c.800-1660 AD. He is the head of Claíomh, a leading Medieval and Early Modern living history interpretation group which services both the areas of media and education. Dave is currently working on reconstructions of 16th century Gaelic Irish targets and sword scabbards and Irish Volunteer belts and other uniform pieces regarding upcoming commemorations in Ireland of the 1916 Rising. Currently research wise, Dave is working on the use of crannógs during the Irish Nine Years War (1594-1603).

**Synopsis:** This illustrated lecture will chronicle the various types of weapons and uniforms in use during the medieval period. Objects from everyday life will also be examined. The lecture will be further enhanced with a wide range of museum quality reproductions including clothing, domestic and military items.



Image courtesy of Mellisa Shiels

## Lifestyles of the Tudor Rich and Famous

Sat 11th June 2016

**Mellisa Shiels**



**Biography:** Melissa Shiels is a Heritage Expert with the Heritage Council, specialising in the daily life of Irish and European peoples from Viking to Victorian times,

with a particular focus on the Tudor nobility and 16th century music and dance. 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.

**Synopsis:** The focus for this presentation is The Butlers of Ormond and will engage the visitors in a hands on exploration of how the Irish nobility lived 500 years ago. Melissa will discuss elements such as the clothing of the elite, how they dined and what they ate, and the pastimes and amusements they engaged in.

*Final  
Lecture  
Double Bill*

Front cover image:

Attributed to Steven van der Meulen,  
Netherlandish, fl.1543-1568

*Portrait of Thomas Butler,  
10th Earl of Ormonde (1532-1614)*

Oil on panel

93 x 68 cm

Photo © National Gallery of Ireland  
NGI.4687



- All lectures will be held in Clonmel Library, Mick Delahunty Square (opposite County Museum), 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** on 076 106 5564 or email [julia.walsh@tipperarycoco.ie](mailto:julia.walsh@tipperarycoco.ie)



**Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann**  
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