

# Clomantagh Castle

Sleeps 10 - Freshford, Co Kilkenny

## Situation:



## Presentation:



Dogs welcome.

Clomantagh Castle is a very special place to stay, where the past echoes in every footstep as you walk through this medieval towerhouse. It is a perfect setting for anyone wishing to be 'King' or 'Queen' of the castle. Please Note: 1 of the 2 staircases is a narrow, spiral staircase.

Also, the Castle is surrounded by a working farm; therefore the main gate must always be kept closed. Nearby: Kilkenny City (8 kms) Shop (1 km) Pub (1 km) Restaurant (6 kms)

*Les chiens sont acceptés.  
le château de Clomantagh est un lieu de séjour*

exceptionnel où les échos du passé résonnent à chaque pas que vous faites. Cette tour médiévale est un endroit idéal pour ceux qui rêvent d'être, le temps d'un séjour, le «Roi» ou «la Reine du château. L'un des deux escaliers est en colimaçon.

D'autre part, le château est entouré d'une ferme en activité, donc la porte principale doit toujours être fermée.

À proximité: Kilkenny (8 kms) Boutique (1 km) Pub (1 km) Restaurant (6 kms)

## **History:**



Clomantagh Castle is part of a unique settlement of tower house, farmhouse and bawn (defensive wall surrounding an Irish tower House). The tower (1430s) and the farmhouse (early 1800s) are linked by doors allowing guests to wander freely between two periods of history. A mixture of simplicity and rustic charm, Clomantagh also features a Sheela-na-gig - a symbolic pagan nude carved on one of the stones.

*Le château de Clomantagh est un habitat unique, c'est une maison tour avec une ferme et un 'bawn' (mur de défense entourant une maison tour Irlandaise). La tour fut construite en 1430 et la ferme au début des années*

*1800. Elles sont reliées par des portes permettant aux hôtes de se promener librement entre deux périodes de l'histoire. Mélange de simplicité et de charme rustique, Clomantagh dispose également d'un 'Sheela-na-gig', une nue païenne gravée sur l'une des pierres.*



Of outstanding importance because of the collection of buildings spanning the period from the 12th - 18th Century, the complex at Clomantagh includes a 12th Century parish church, an early 15th Century tower house, an almost intact boundary or bawn wall with a medieval dovecote, and a 19th Century farmhouse.

*D'une importance exceptionnelle en raison de l'ensemble des bâtiments qui couvre la période du 12ème au 18ème siècle, le complexe de Clomantagh comprend une église paroissiale du 12ème siècle, une maison tour du début du 15ème siècle, une muraille*

*'bawn' presque intacte avec un pigeonnier médiévale, et une ferme du 19ème siècle.*

High on the tower house, above the roof of the farmhouse, there is evidence on an external wall, of an earlier attached structure. This is most likely the banqueting hall, which we know from contemporary descriptive accounts of Irish life was used for entertaining, the lord and his family only returning to the safety of the stone castle to sleep.

*En haut de la maison tour, au-dessus du toit de la ferme, on peut voir les traces d'une construction autrefois rattachée au mur extérieur. C'est probablement la salle du festin, que nous connaissons par des comptes rendus contemporains descriptifs de la vie irlandaise de l'époque notamment pour le divertissement, le seigneur et sa famille ne revenant à la sécurité du château en pierre uniquement pour dormir.*

[REDACTED]

On the site of this banqueting hall stands the Victorian farmhouse, which is a fine example of this building type retaining most of its original features, apart from the roofing material which was changed from thatch to slate. This house, which is linked to the castle on ground and first floor, was built about 1850 by the Shorthall family. It has been restored and furnished to its Victorian origins, whilst the Tower keeps its medieval character. The limewash on the outside of the house is slightly tinted by using fine particles of red sand.

The castle kitchen and a bedroom are located in the tower house - a medieval turret stone staircase leads from the kitchen to the main bedroom.



*La ferme victorienne fut construite sur le site de cette salle de banquet, elle représente un bel exemple de ce type de bâtiment puisqu'elle conserve la plupart de ses caractéristiques d'origine, mis à part le matériel de couverture qui est passé de chaume à l'ardoise. Cette maison, qui est relié au château au niveau du rez de chaussée et du premier étage fut construite vers 1850 par la famille Shorthall. Elle a été restauré et meublé selon ses origines victoriennes, tandis que la tour conserve son caractère médiéval. L'enduit de chaux à l'extérieur de la maison est légèrement teinté avec de fines particules de sable rouge.*

*La cuisine du château et l'une chambre sont situées dans la tour de la maison, un escalier médiéval en pierre mène de la cuisine à la chambre principale.*

### **Ownership History**

Clomantagh originally belonged to Pierce Ruadh, Earl of Ormond (died 1539) and his wife, Margaret Fitzgerald (Mairghréad nee Gearóid/Moll Gearailt). It subsequently passed, with many other castles and lands, to his second son, Richard Butler, the first Viscount Mountgarret. The 3rd Lord Mountgarret was President of the Confederation of Kilkenny, and forfeited the castle and a third of the townland under the Cromwellian regime to Lieutenant Arthur St. George, ancestor of the Kilrush family. The Castle was also owned by the Shortalls of Ballylarkin, and latterly by Mr. Willie White, a vet in nearby Freshford.



### **Histoire de propriété**

*Clomantagh appartenait à l'origine à Pierce Ruadh, comte d'Ormond (mort en 1539) et son épouse, Margaret Fitzgerald (née Mairghréad Gearóid / Moll Gearailt). Il le légua ensuite, avec de nombreux autres châteaux et des terres, à son second fils Richard Butler, le premier vicomte de Mountgarret. Plus tard, le 3ème seigneur Mountgarret fut président de la Confédération de Kilkenny, et se fit confisquer le château ainsi qu'un tiers de ses terres sous le régime de Cromwellian par le lieutenant Arthur Saint-Georges, ancêtre de la famille Kilrush. Le château fut également détenu par les Ballylarkin, et plus récemment par M. Willie White, un vétérinaire de Freshford.*

### **Restoration:**



In its restoration of Clomantagh Castle, The Irish Landmark Trust has pursued its policy of minimal intervention on the building, consistent with maintaining its fabric intact for future generations. Using traditional materials and methods of construction wherever possible,



the Trust hopes to have retained the essence of the Castle which has survived and adapted to some changes over a period of 500 years. It has sought to maintain, intact and unaltered, its most important and unique medieval elements.

*Pour la restauration de Clomantagh Castle, Irish Landmark Trust a poursuivi sa politique d'intervention minimale sur le bâtiment, consistant à préserver ses matériaux d'origine intacts pour les générations futures. En utilisant des matériaux et des méthodes traditionnelles de construction, dans la mesure du possible, Irish Landmark Trust espère avoir conservé l'essence du château qui a survécu et s'est adapté à certains changements sur une période de 500 ans. Irish Landmark trust a cherché à maintenir intacts et inchangés les plus importants de ses éléments médiévaux.*

The name Clomantagh comes from the Irish "cloch mantaigh", meaning missing tooth or gappy smile. Locals gave this name to the castle as the irregular castellation reminded them of someone smiling with missing teeth.

*Le nom Clomantagh provient de l'irlandais " cloch mantaigh ", qui signifie 'dent manquante' ou 'sourire lacunaire'. Les habitants locaux ont donné ce nom au château car l'irrégularité du château leurs rappelaient quelqu'un qui souriait avec des dents manquantes.*

The bawn (boundary), tower house and farmhouse at Clomantagh comprise a settlement that has been in continuous occupation for almost five hundred years. Even prior to that, the ruin of a 13th century church beside the entrance, dedicated to Our Lady of the Nativity, indicates that this was a site of some importance long before construction of the tower house began. The entire area is rich in megalithic archaeological sights and there is much evidence of forts and mounds in reading the landscape.

It has been established that the tower and bawn were built in the 15th century (c.1430). The tower house has been modified and extended over the centuries, and in the early 19th century a farmhouse was added providing accommodation with comfort, rather than defence, in mind. In recent times, the bawn walls have sheltered the buildings of a 20th century working farm. It also has a rare clochán (small dome-roomed structure) knit into the bawn walls. Five other tower houses can be seen from the roof of Clomantagh Castle, and they were all strategically aligned for defence purposes.

*Le bawn (limite), la maison tour et la ferme de Clomantagh constituent un habitat qui fut en occupation continue depuis près de cinq cents ans. La ruine d'une église du 13ème siècle dédiée à Notre-Dame de la Nativité à côté de l'entrée, indique qu'il s'agit d'un site d'une importance particulière bien avant que la construction de la maison tour ai commencé. Toute la région est riche en sites archéologiques mégalithiques et il y a beaucoup de preuves de forts et de monticules dans le paysage.*

*Il a été constaté que la tour et le 'bawn' ont été construits au 15ème siècle (1430). La maison-tour a été modifié et agrandi au fil des siècles, et dans le début du 19e siècle la ferme fut ajoutée, offrant un hébergement de confort. Ces derniers temps, les murs 'Bawn' ont donc abrité une ferme de travail du 20e siècle. Il y a également une 'Clochán' (petite structure rare en forme de dôme) tricoté dans les murs 'Bawn'. Cinq autres maisons-tours peuvent être vu depuis le toit de Clomantagh château, et elles furent toutes stratégiquement alignées pour assurer leur défense.*



In Ireland in the mid-15th century a tremendous surge in stone building construction began. Prior to this, the native Irish lived in ring forts and crannógs built out of whatever was to hand. The building of the tall secretive tower houses reflects a period of social change, political instability and technological advances. Their owners

were part of a new social order of emergent native gentry, the "Castle Catholics", seeking domestic stability and a safe repository for their daughters, livestock and newly acquired possessions. For the first time, Norman and Irish alike built similar houses.

*En Irlande, au milieu du 15e siècle un accroissement important de construction de bâtiments en pierre débuta. Avant cela, l'Irlandais natif vivait dans des forts circulaires et des 'crannógs' construits à partir de tout ce qui était à portée de main. La construction secrète des hautes maisons tours reflète une période de changement social, avec l'instabilité politique et les progrès technologiques. Les propriétaires faisaient partie d'un nouvel ordre social de la noblesse native émergente. Les "Château de catholiques", cherchaient la stabilité intérieure ainsi qu'un dépôt sûr pour leurs filles, le bétail et les biens nouvellement acquis. Pour la première fois, les Normands et les irlandais bâtir des maisons semblables.*

Clomantagh followed mainstream castle design, emerging as an almost square building, six storeys high, with massive walls built from local limestone, and a corner staircase. Inserted high on the south wall is a Sheela-na-Gig. This pagan symbol was adopted by medieval builders and incorporated as the building was erected. High up the remains of the stepped battlement walls, the merlons can be seen - a specifically Irish feature whose inspiration is considered to be Venetian. Inside the battlements a wide walkway gave access to all sides of the building. In the north east corner, a high watchtower has been built. This is known as Moll Gearailt's Chair, after the particularly ferocious original mistress of the house, Maighréad nhee Gearóid, who used to sit watching over her fields to ensure that her labourers were not slacking at their work. The walkway, or Alure, was sloped outward to allow run off water through drainage holes and stone spouts. Generally, battlement walls have not survived well, their thinner construction and unstable sloping bases have contributed to their disappearance from tower houses.

*Clomantagh suivit la conception la plus répandu du château, il apparaît comme un bâtiment presque carré, a six étages, avec des murs massifs construits à partir de calcaire local, et un escalier en coin. En haut du mur sud est inséré un Sheela-na-Gig. Ce symbole païen a été adopté par les constructeurs médiévaux et incorporé quand le bâtiment fut érigé. En haut, les restes des murs crénelés en gradins et les merlons sont encore visible et sont une caractéristique spécifiquement irlandaise dont l'inspiration est considérée comme Vénitienne. A l'intérieur des remparts, un large chemin de ronde donne accès à tous les côtés du bâtiment. Dans le coin nord-est, une tour de guet fut construite. Ceci fut connu comme le fauteuil de Moll Gearailt, après la maîtresse particulièrement féroce de la maison, Maighread nhee Gearóid, avait l'habitude de s'asseoir à regarder sur ses champs afin de s'assurer que ses travailleurs ne manquaient pas à leur travail. Le chemin de ronde était en pente vers l'extérieur afin de permettre le ruissellement de l'eau à travers les trous de drainage et les becs de pierre. En général les murs crénelés n'ont pas bien survécu, leurs minces constructions et leurs bases instables en pente, ont contribué à leurs disparitions des maisons-tours.*

The lowest part of the outer walls were sloped outward, or battered, to increase the structural stability and to provide better targets for defenders shooting from above. Since the staircase weakened the wall in which it was built, it tended to be located facing into the bawn, away from likely attack. Vys was the old English term for a screw. The stairs wound anti-clockwise in order to facilitate a right-handed swordsman fighting his way down. A small entrance door is found at ground level. These always faced into the bawn, protected by a defensive device known as a machicolation. Located on the top floor and cantilevered out, this stone box facilitated dropping missiles onto unwanted guests. A cross loop is positioned beside the door to allow the use of crossbows. The stones around these openings are shaped and decorated with punched stonework. The next line of defence is the Murder Hole, positioned over the main entrance to allow the defenders to rain down missiles on any attackers who succeeded in getting in through the small entrance. To the right of the door can be seen a small guardroom.

The doors of the tower are framed with stones forming a pointed arch. On the first floor there is a recess cut into the

wall, into which the door fits when open. Doors hung from a bulky stone hanging eye at the head of the opening and fixed to a pivot hole at the foot. This can be seen at the door to the Vyse stair at Clomantagh.



*La partie inférieure des murs extérieurs étaient en pente vers l'extérieur, ou battue, afin d'augmenter la stabilité de la structure et de fournir de meilleures cibles pour les défenseurs qui tiraient d'en haut. Depuis les escaliers ont affaibli les murs contre lesquels il ont été construit, ils avait tendance à être situé face au 'bawn', à l'abri d'une attaque probable. Vys était le vieux terme anglais pour une vis. Les escaliers étaient enroulés dans le sens inverse des aiguilles d'une montre afin de permettre à un escrimeur droitier de combattre en descendant. Une petite porte d'entrée se trouve au rez-de-chaussée. Elles sont toujours en face du 'bawn', protégée par un dispositif défensif connu comme un mâchicoulis. Situé au dernier étage et en porte à faux, cette petite lucarne en pierre facilitait la chute des missiles sur les hôtes indésirables. Une ouverture est positionnée à côté de la porte pour permettre l'utilisation de l'arbalète. Les pierres autour de ces ouvertures sont façonnées et décorées de sculptures. La stratégie de défense suivante, est un trou placé au-dessus de l'entrée principale, permettant aux défenseurs de jeter des pluies de missiles*

*sur les assaillants qui réussiraient à entrer par la petite porte. A droite de la porte on peut voir une petite salle des gardes.*

*Les portes de la tour sont encadrées de pierres formant un arc brisé. Au premier étage, il y a un renforcement dans le mur, dans lequel s'inscrit la porte lorsqu'elle est ouverte. Les portes sont accrochés à des pierres volumineuses à l'aide d'œillet en haut et fixé à un trou de pivotement au pied. Ceci peut être vu pour la porte de l'escalier à Vis au château de Clomantagh.*

### ***Sheela-na-Gigs***

Sheela-na-Gigs are carvings of naked females posed in a manner which displays and emphasises the genitalia. The name means 'old hag of the breasts' in Irish, and was given to them, along with a negative interpretation, by 19th century antiquarians. More recently they have come to take on more positive connotations as symbols of Irishness or female power, which have perhaps more relevance to their original functions.

Les  *Sheela-na-Gigs' sont des sculptures de femmes nues qui posaient d'une manière qui affichent et met l'accent sur les organes génitaux. Le nom signifie «poitrine de vieille sorcière» en irlandais, et leur a été donné avec une interprétation négative par les antiquaires du 19e siècle. Plus récemment, ils en sont venus à prendre davantage de connotations positives comme des symboles irlandais ou du pouvoir féminin, qui ont peut-être plus de pertinence que leurs fonctions d'origines.*

Throughout the medieval world, prominent among the deadly sins were avarice, regarded mainly as a male sin, and lust, which pertained particularly to women. Lust was often portrayed as an obscene female figure, adapted from the ancient image of the earth mother, or Tellus Mater, and was often worked into stonework of churches to alert the faithful to the dangers of sin.

*Partout dans le monde médiéval, parmi les péchés capitaux il y avait la cupidité, considérée principalement comme un péché masculin, et la luxure plus particulièrement féminin. La luxure (lust) est souvent représenté par un personnage obscène féminin, adapté de l'image antique de la terre mère, ou Mater Tellus, et a souvent été sculpté dans les églises pour alerter les fidèles sur les dangers du péché.*

The 15th century in Ireland was a period of relative stability and resurgence in the confidence of indigenous Irish building (as opposed to Anglo Norman) and the most typical structures were small castles, or tower houses, with an essentially Irish architectural identity. The Kilkenny area, home of many of these tower houses, was notably a centre of stone carving and is also the home of many of Ireland's Sheela-na-Gigs (there are about 100 known examples.)

*Le 15ème siècle en Irlande fut une période de stabilité relative et de résurgence de confiance pour les constructions irlandais indigènes (par opposition aux anglo normande) et les structures les plus typiques sont de petits châteaux ou maisons-tours, avec une identité architecturale essentiellement irlandaise. Dans les alentours de Kilkenny, un grand nombre de ces maisons-tours, était notamment des centres de la sculpture sur pierre et également le foyer de beaucoup de Sheela-na-Gigs Irlandaise (il ya environ 100 exemples connus.)*

The Clomantagh Sheela is placed horizontally far up on the outside wall of the tower, like similar secular examples, and it has been suggested that it was from an earlier church building, and inserted into the tower as a protective icon, symbol of fertility, or agricultural productivity rather than an invocation against lust. This has definite resonances with the story of the powerful original mistress of the house, Maighréad nhee Gearóid, and her agricultural interests.

*La Sheela de Clomantagh est placé horizontalement sur le mur extérieur de la tour, comme d'autres exemples similaires laïques. Il a été suggéré qu'elle provenait peut-être d'une église antérieure, et inséré dans la tour comme une icône de protection, symbole de fertilité, ou productivité agricole plutôt que l'invocation contre la luxure. Cela a des résonances précises avec l'histoire de la maîtresse puissante originelle de la maison, Maighread nhee Gearóid, et ses intérêts agricoles.*

## **Tourist attractions around Clomantagh Castle**

*Freshford, Co Kilkenny*

### **Freshford and Kilkenny surrounding**

#### **The Black Abbey**

Web: [http://www.kilkenny.ie/eng/About\\_Kilkenny/History/Famous\\_Landmarks/The\\_Black\\_Abbey.html](http://www.kilkenny.ie/eng/About_Kilkenny/History/Famous_Landmarks/The_Black_Abbey.html)

Tel: +353 (0)56 772 1279

Address: Kilkenny

#### **The Kilkenny Smithwicks Brewery**

Web: <http://www.smithwicks.ie/>

(Visit only on summer)

Tel: +353 (0)56 779 64 98

Address: Parliament St, St. Francis Abbey Brewery, Kilkenny, Ireland

#### **Kilkenny Design Craft center**

Web: <http://www.kilkennydesign.com/>

Email: [info@kilkennydesign.com](mailto:info@kilkennydesign.com)

Tel: (056) 772 21 18

Address: Kilkenny Design Centre, Castle Yard, Kilkenny, Ireland

**Nuenna Farm Equestrian Centre**

Web: <http://www.discoverireland.ie/di/resultseengine/IndividualResultTCS.aspx?touristItemID=1370>

Phone: (+353 0)56 8832614

Address: Nuenna Farm Equestrian Centre, Kilkenny Road, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

**Kilkenny Castle**

Web: [www.ccoi.ie](http://www.ccoi.ie)

Email: [izabel.pennec@opw.ie](mailto:izabel.pennec@opw.ie)

Phone: (+353 0) 56 7704100

Address: The Parade, Kilkenny City, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

**St. Canice's Cathedral and tower**

Web: [www.stcanicescathedral.ie](http://www.stcanicescathedral.ie)

Email: [cathedral@ossory.anglican.org](mailto:cathedral@ossory.anglican.org)

Phone: (+353 0) 56 776 4971

Address: The Close, Coach road, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

**Rothe House and Garden**

Web: [www.kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie](http://www.kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie)

Email: [rothehouse@eircom.net](mailto:rothehouse@eircom.net)

Phone: (+353 0) 56 7722893

Address: Rothe House, Parliament Street, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

**The Newpark Fen**

Web: [http://www.discoverireland.com/us/ireland-things-to-see-and-do/listings/product/?fid=FI\\_60827](http://www.discoverireland.com/us/ireland-things-to-see-and-do/listings/product/?fid=FI_60827)

Tel: +353 (0)56 779 4373

Email: [parks@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:parks@kilkennycoco.ie)

Address: Newpark Fen & Eco-Park, c/o Parks Department, Kilkenny County Council, Co Kilkenny, Republic Of Ireland

**Nicholas Mosse pottery**

Web: <http://nicholasmosse.com/>

Phone +353 56 7727505

Email: [eshop@nicholasmosse.com](mailto:eshop@nicholasmosse.com)

Address: Nicholas Mosse, Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny Ireland

**Rudolf Hetzel**

Web: <http://rudolfheltzel.com/>

Tel: +353 (0)56 7721497

Address: 10 Patrick street, Kilkenny City

**National Craft Gallery**

Web: <http://www.nationalcraftgallery.ie/>

E [info@nationalcraftgallery.ie](mailto:info@nationalcraftgallery.ie)

T +353 56 7796147

Address: Castle Yard, Kilkenny, Ireland

**Kilkenny Cristal Studio**

Web: <http://www.kilkennycrystal.com/>



Tel: +353 56 7725132

**Address:**Kilkenny Crystal, Tinnamona, Callan, Co. Kilkenny

### **Butler House Gardens**

Web: <http://www.butler.ie/>

Telephone 056 7765707 (international +353-56-7765707)

Email: [res@butler.ie](mailto:res@butler.ie)

Address: 16 Patrick Street, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

### **West of Freshford (Tipperary, Cashel, Thurles, Templemore, Roscrea)**

#### **Holy Cross Abbey**

Web: <http://www.discoverireland.ie/Arts-Culture-Heritage/holy-cross-abbey/63099>  
[www.holycrossabbey.ie](http://www.holycrossabbey.ie)

Email: [frtjbreen02@eircom.net](mailto:frtjbreen02@eircom.net)

Tel : +353 504 43124

Address: Thurles, Tipperary, Republic of Ireland

#### **Farney Castle**

Web: <http://cyrilcullen.wordpress.com/farney-castle/>

Address: Holycross, Co. Tipperary

#### **Roscrea Castle, Damer House and the Blackmills**

Tel : +353 (0505) 21850

Email: [roscreaheritage@opw.ie](mailto:roscreaheritage@opw.ie)

Address: Castle Street, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

#### **St Mary Famine and War Museum**

Web: <http://www.faminemuseum.com/>

Tel: 0504 21133

Address: Thurles, Co Tipperary

#### **Fairy Fort Farm**

Web: <http://www.fairyfortfarm.com/>

Tel: 086 4021659

Tel. International: 00 353 864021659

Contact : Michael O'Donnell

email: [info@fairyfortfarm.com](mailto:info@fairyfortfarm.com)

Address: FairyFortFarm , Summerhill , Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary

#### **Cabragh Wetland Trust**

Web: <http://www.cabraghwetlands.ie/>

Email: [info@cabraghwetlands.ie](mailto:info@cabraghwetlands.ie)

Tel: 0504 43879 (Mornings only)

Address: Cabragh Wetlands Trust, Holycross, Thurles, Co Tipperary, Ireland

### **East of Freshford (Carlow, Athy, Kildare)**

#### **Reptile village zoo**

Web: [www.reptilvillagezoo.ie](http://www.reptilvillagezoo.ie)  
Tel: (056) 7726757  
Address: Gowran, Co Kilkenny

#### **Woodstock Garden and Arboretum**

Web: [www.woodstock.ie](http://www.woodstock.ie)  
Tel: (087) 854 9785  
Inistioge, Co Kilkenny

#### **Cushendale Woolen Mills**

Web: <http://www.cushendale.ie/>  
Ph: +353 (0)59 9724118  
email: [info@cushendale.ie](mailto:info@cushendale.ie)  
Address: Mill Road., Graig-na-managh, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland.

#### **Duiske Glass Factory Shop**

Web: <http://www.duiskeglasskilkenny.ie/>  
Tel: (353) 059 9724174  
Address: Duiske Glass Gift Shop, High St. Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

#### **Shankil Castle and Garden**

Web: <http://shankillcastle.com/>  
Tel: +353 59 972 6145  
Mob: +353 87 7672656  
[info@shankillcastle.com](mailto:info@shankillcastle.com)  
Address: Shankill Castle, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny

#### ***South of Freshford (Callan, Clonmel, Waterford)***

#### **Jerpoint Abbey**

Web: <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-east/jerpointabbey/>  
Tel: (056) 772 4623  
Address: Thomastown

#### **Jerpoint Glass studio**

Email: [enquiries@jerpointglass.com](mailto:enquiries@jerpointglass.com)  
Phone: +353 56 7724350  
Email: [enquiries@jerpointglass.com](mailto:enquiries@jerpointglass.com)  
Address: Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

#### **The lost town heritage Site at Jerpoint Park**

Web: <http://jerpointpark.com/>  
Tel: +353(0) 866061449  
Email: [info@jerpointpark.com](mailto:info@jerpointpark.com)  
Address: Thomastown, Co Kilkenny - Ireland

#### **Christ Church Cathedral of Waterford**

Web: <http://www.christchurchwaterford.com/>  
Email: [info@christchurchwaterford.com](mailto:info@christchurchwaterford.com)

Tel: +353 (0) 51 - 858 958

Address: Christ Church Cathedral, Cathedral square, Waterford

### **Viking Exhibition and Reginald's Tower**

Web: [www.waterfordtreasures.ie](http://www.waterfordtreasures.ie)

Email: reginaldstower@opw.ie

Email: granarymail@waterfordcity.ie

Tel: (051) 30 42 20

Address: Viking triangle, Waterford city, Co. Waterford.

### **Waterford Crystal visitor centre**

Web: [www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com](http://www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com)

Tel (051) 33 25 00

Address: Viking Triangle, Waterford city, Co Waterford.

### **Waterford and Suir Valley Railway**

Web: [www.wsvrailway.ie](http://www.wsvrailway.ie)

Email: [info@wsvrailway.ie](mailto:info@wsvrailway.ie)

Address: Kilmeaden Station

### **Bishop's Palace and Centre**

Web: <http://www.waterfordtreasures.com/bishops-palace/index.htm>

Tel : +353 51 849650

Email : waterfordtreasures@waterfordcity.ie

Address: Viking triangle, Waterford City, Co Waterford

### **The James Hoban Memorial Arbor**

Web: [http://www.kilkennytourism.ie/hoban\\_memorial](http://www.kilkennytourism.ie/hoban_memorial)

Address: Desart, Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny.

### **Nore view Folk and Heritage Museum**

Web: [http://www.kilkennytourism.ie/nore\\_view\\_museum](http://www.kilkennytourism.ie/nore_view_museum)

Contact Seamus Lawlor at 056 7727749

Address: Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny

### **The Kilfane Glen and Waterfall**

Web: <http://www.kilfane.com/>

Email: [susan@irishgardens.com](mailto:susan@irishgardens.com)

Tel: +353.56.772.4558

Address: Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

### **Gairdin an Ghorta**

Web: <http://www.faminegarden.com/>

[info@faminegarden.com](mailto:info@faminegarden.com)

Telephone: 086 - 8394349

Address: Gáirdín an Ghorta Committee, Newmarket , Co. Kilkenny

### **St Patrick's rock of Cashel**

Web: <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-east/rockofcashel/>  
Telephone No: +353 62 61437  
E-mail: rockofcashel@opw.ie  
Address: St. Patrick's Rock of Cashel, Cashel, Co. Tipperary

#### **Bru Boru Cultural Centre**

Web: <http://bruboru.ie/>  
Email: info.bruboru.ie  
Tel: +353 62 61122  
Brú Ború , Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

#### **Michelstown Cave**

Web: <http://www.michelstowncave.com/>  
Phone: +353 (0)52 74 67 246  
Email: visit@michelstowncave.com  
Address: Mitchelstown Caves, Burncourt, Cahir, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

#### **Cahir Castle**

Web: <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-east/cahircastle/>  
Telephone No: +353 52 7441011  
Email: [cahircastle@opw.ie](mailto:cahircastle@opw.ie)  
Address: Castle St., Cahir, Co. Tipperary.

#### **Ormond Castle**

Web: <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/South-East/OrmondCastle/>  
Tel: +353 51 640 787  
Email: ormondcastle@opw.ie  
Address: Castle Park, off Castle Street, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary

#### **Main Guard**

Web: <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/South-East/TheMainGuard/>  
Tel: +353 52 6127484  
E-mail: mainguard@opw.ie  
Address: The Main Guard, Sarsfield Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

#### **The Swiss Cottage**

Web: <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/South-East/SwissCottage/>  
Tel: +353 52 74 41144  
Email: swisscottage@opw.ie  
Address: Kilcommon, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

#### **Glen of Aherlow Nature Park**

Web: <http://aherlow.com/the-glen/>  
Tel: +353 (0)62 56331  
Email : info@aherlow.com  
Address: Coach Road, Newtown, Co. Tipperary

#### ***North of Freshford and Kilkenny***

**Dunmore Caves**

Web: <http://www.showcaves.com/english/ie/showcaves/Dunmore.html>

Email: [dunmorecaves@opw.ie](mailto:dunmorecaves@opw.ie)

Phone: +353-1-6476593

Address: Dunmore Caves Castlecomer, Rd Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

**Castlecomer Discovery Park**

Web: [www.discoverypark.ie](http://www.discoverypark.ie)

Tel: 056 4440 707

Address: The estate Yard, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

**Castlecomer estate Yard Arts and Crafts Centre**

Web: <http://www.madeinkilkenny.ie/>

[www.discoverypark.ie](http://www.discoverypark.ie)

Tel : +353 56 4440636

Email: [info@discoverypark.ie](mailto:info@discoverypark.ie)

Email: [rosedurr@hotmail.com](mailto:rosedurr@hotmail.com)

Email : [potty@cranmorpottery.com](mailto:potty@cranmorpottery.com)

Web: [www.discoverypark.ie](http://www.discoverypark.ie)

Web: [www.madeinkilkenny.ie](http://www.madeinkilkenny.ie)

Address: Castlecomer Estate Yard, Castlecomer, Kilkenny, Republic of Ireland

## Event and festival around Clomantagh Castle

*Freshford, Co Kilkenny*

### ***Freshford and Kilkenny surrounding***

**17 March: St Patrick's Day**

Web: [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

**End of March – End of April: Kilkenny walking Festival**

Web: <http://www.kilkennywalkingfestival.ie/>

Address; Kilkenny

**Beginning of May: Smithwick's Kilkenny Roots Festival**

Web: [www.kilkennyroots.com](http://www.kilkennyroots.com)

Address: Kilkenny city

**Middle of May: Between Art and Industry**

Web: [www.ccoi.ie](http://www.ccoi.ie)

Address: National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny city

**End of May – beginning of June : The Cat Laughs Comedy Festival**

Web: [www.thecatlaughs.com](http://www.thecatlaughs.com)

Address: Kilkenny City



**Beginning of June: Inistioge Summer Festival**

Web: [www.kilkennytourism.ie](http://www.kilkennytourism.ie)

Address: Kilkenny city

**End of June : Raven Rock Car Rally**

Web: [www.carrickonsuirmotorclub.com](http://www.carrickonsuirmotorclub.com)

Address: Kilkenny City

**End of July: TriGrandPrix Ireland – The Kilkenny Triathlon**

Web: [www.trigrandprix.com](http://www.trigrandprix.com)

Address: Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny City

**Middle of August: Kilkenny Arts Festival**

Web: [www.kilkennyarts.ie](http://www.kilkennyarts.ie)

Address: Kilkenny city

**End of August: Dig it Kids Archaeology Camp**

Web: [www.culturaltourismireland.ie](http://www.culturaltourismireland.ie)

Address: Kilkenny City

**End of August: International Gospel Choir**

Web: [www.kilkennygospelchoir.com](http://www.kilkennygospelchoir.com)

Address: Kilkenny

**Beginning of October: Kilkenny Racing Festival at Growran Park**

Web: [www.horseracingireland.com](http://www.horseracingireland.com)

Address: Gowran Park, Co. Kilkenny

**End of October: Irish Conker Championship Festival**

Web: [www.irishconkerchampionship.com](http://www.irishconkerchampionship.com)

Address: The square, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny

**November: Kilkenomics**

Web: [www.kilkenomics.com](http://www.kilkenomics.com)

Address: Kilkenny

***West of Freshford (Tipperary, Cashel, Thurles, Templemore, Roscrea)***

**End of January- Glen of Aherlow Winter Walking Festival**

Web: [www.aherlow.com](http://www.aherlow.com)

**Middle of February: Tipperariana Book Fair**

Web: [www.fethard.com/historical](http://www.fethard.com/historical)

**End of March: Tipperary Drama Festival**

Web: [www.comhaltas.com](http://www.comhaltas.com)

Address: BrúBorú Cultural Centre, Cashel, Co.Tipperary

**17<sup>th</sup> of March: St Patrick's Day**

[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

**Mid June-Mid August: Ballykeeffe Midsummer Festival**

Web: [www.ballykeefe.com](http://www.ballykeefe.com)

Address: Kilmanagh, Co. Kilkenny

**Middle of August: Fethard Walled Town Medieval Festival**

Web: [www.fethard.com/walledtown](http://www.fethard.com/walledtown)

Address: Fethard, Co. Tipperary

**Beginning of September: Féile Fidelma**

Web: [www.cashelartsfest.com](http://www.cashelartsfest.com)

Address: Cashel, Co. Tipperary

**November: Cashel Arts Festival**

Web: [www.cashelartsfest.com](http://www.cashelartsfest.com)

**December: Santa's Grotto at Castlecomer Discovery Park**

Web: [www.discoverypark.ie](http://www.discoverypark.ie)

Address: Castlecomer Discovery Park, Co Kilkenny

***East of Freshford (Carlow, Athy, Kildare)***

**End of February: Snowdrop Week-Altamont Gardens**

Web: [www.altamontgarden.com](http://www.altamontgarden.com)

Address: Tullow, Co.Carlow

**Beginning of March: Barrow River Art Festival**

Email: [barrowriverartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:barrowriverartsfestival@gmail.com)

Address: Borris House, Borris, Co Carlow

**17<sup>th</sup> of March: St Patrick's Day**

[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

**End of March: Easter Fun Train – Rathwood**

Web: [www.rathwood.com](http://www.rathwood.com)

Address: Home and Garden World Tullow, Co. Carlow

**Beginning of April: Lunchtime Storytellers at Visual Theatre**

Web: [www.gbshawtheatre.ie](http://www.gbshawtheatre.ie)

Address: Carlow town

**Middle of April: International Pan Celtic Festival 2012**

Web: [www.panceltic.ie](http://www.panceltic.ie)

Address: Carlow Town

**Beginning of June: Carlow Regatta**

Email: [Michael.curran@zuric.ie](mailto:Michael.curran@zuric.ie)  
Address: River Barrow. Carlow city.

**Beginning of June: Éigse Carlow Art Festival**

Web: [www.eigsecarlow.ie](http://www.eigsecarlow.ie)  
Address: Carlow Town and Country

**Middle of June: Play Tag Festival**

Web: [www.carlowrugby.ie](http://www.carlowrugby.ie)  
Address: Carlow, rugby club, Carlow

**End of June: Rose week at Altamont Gardens**

Web: [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)  
Address: Tullow, Co. Carlow

**End of July – Beginning of August: Carlow Garden Festival**

Web: [www.carlowfloralfestival.com](http://www.carlowfloralfestival.com)  
Address; Throughout Co. Carlow

**Beginning of August: National County Fair at Borris House**

Web: [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)  
Address: Borris, Co. Carlow

**Beginning of August: Graignamanagh/Tinnahinch Regatta and Rowing Festival**

Tel: 087-6371949  
Address: Graignamanagh

**Middle of August: Tullow Agricultural Show**

Address: Copenagh, Tullow, Co. Carlow

**Beginning of September: Fenagh Steam Rally**

Web: [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)  
Address: Fenagh, Co Carlow.

**Middle of September: Rosdiling Vintage Rally and Stream Treshing**

Web: [www.farmingshows.com](http://www.farmingshows.com)  
Address: Rosdillig, Borris, Co. Carlow

**Middle of October: Carlow Autumn Walking Festival**

Web: [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

**Middle of October: Nire Valley Walking Festival**

Web: [www.hanorascottage.com](http://www.hanorascottage.com)  
Address: Nire Valley, Co. Tipperary

**November – December : Christmas Time at Rathwood**

Web: [www.rathwood.com](http://www.rathwood.com)  
Address; Tullow, Co. Carlow

**December: Rathwood Santa Claus train**

Web: [www.rathwood.com](http://www.rathwood.com)

Address: Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

***South of Freshford (Callan, Clonmel, Waterford)***

**End of January: Quantum Life Dungarvan**

Web: [www.dungaravan10mile.org](http://www.dungaravan10mile.org)

**17<sup>th</sup> March: St Patrick's Day**

[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

**End of March: Waterford Writers Weekend**

Web: [www.waterfordwritersweekend.ie](http://www.waterfordwritersweekend.ie)

Address: Waterford city

**End of March: Nire Valley Comeragh Mountains Bog trot**

Web: [www.nirevalley.com](http://www.nirevalley.com)

Address: Nire Valley, Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford

**End of March: Waterford Festival of learning**

Web: [www.waterfordvec.ie](http://www.waterfordvec.ie)

Address: Waterford City

**Middle of April : Knockmealdown Crossing**

Web: [www.peaksmcclonmel.ie](http://www.peaksmcclonmel.ie)

Address: Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

**Middle of April: Waterford Festival of Food**

Web: [www.waterfordfestivaloffood.com](http://www.waterfordfestivaloffood.com)

Address: Dungaravan, Co. Waterford

**End of April: Waterford festival of architecture**

Web: [www.wfa.ie](http://www.wfa.ie)

**Beginning of May: Waterford International Music Festival**

Web: [www.waterfordintlmusicfestival.com](http://www.waterfordintlmusicfestival.com)

Address: Waterford City

**Family Fun Event at Waterford and Suir Valley Railway**

Web: [www.wsvrailway.ie](http://www.wsvrailway.ie)

Address: Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford

**June, July and August: Art on Cathedral Square**

Web: [www.christchurchwaterford.com](http://www.christchurchwaterford.com)

Address: Cathedral Square, Waterford City

**June, July, August – Trad in the Triangle**

Web: [www.christchurchwaterford.com](http://www.christchurchwaterford.com)

Address: Cathedral Square, Waterford City

**Beginning of June: Artbeat**

Web: [www.waterfordcity.ie](http://www.waterfordcity.ie)

**End of June: Waterford Viking Marathon**

Web: [www.waterfordvikingmarathon.com](http://www.waterfordvikingmarathon.com)

Address: Waterford City

**Beginning of August: SPRAOI Festival**

Web: [www.spraoi.com](http://www.spraoi.com)

Address: Waterford City Centre

**August: Art on Cathedral Square**

Web: [www.christchurchwaterford.com](http://www.christchurchwaterford.com)

Address: Cathedral Square, Waterford City

**Beginning of August: Waterford Polo Annual Tournament**

Web: [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

Address: Waterford Polo Grounds Portlaw, Co. Waterford

**End of August: Iverk Agricultural Show**

Web: [www.iverkshow.com](http://www.iverkshow.com)

Address: Piltown, Co. Kilkenny

**Middle of September: Waterford Harvest food Festival**

Web: [www.slowfoodireland.com](http://www.slowfoodireland.com)

Address: Waterford City

**Middle of September: GIY Gathering 2012**

Web: [www.giyireland.com](http://www.giyireland.com)

Address: Waterford City

**Middle of September: Tramore Oceanic Surf and Sea Festival**

Web: [www.oceanics.ie](http://www.oceanics.ie)

Address: Tramore, Co. Waterford

**Middle of October: Style Clonmel Festival**

Web: [www.styleclonmel.com](http://www.styleclonmel.com)

Address: Conmel, Co. Tipperary

**End of October: Imagine Arts Festival**

Web: [www.imagineartsfestival.com](http://www.imagineartsfestival.com)

Address: Waterford City

**October: Halloween Spookfest**

Web: [www.waterfordchamber.ie](http://www.waterfordchamber.ie)

Address: Waterford city



**November: Waterford Film Festival**

Web: [www.waterfordchamber.ie](http://www.waterfordchamber.ie)

**November: Bulmer's Comedy Festival**

Web: [www.clonmelcomedy.com](http://www.clonmelcomedy.com)

Address: Clonmel, Co Tipperary

**1<sup>st</sup> December: Waterford Half Marathon**

Web: [www.waterfordac.com](http://www.waterfordac.com)

Address: Waterford city

**December: Christmas in Waterford**

Web: [www.waterfordchamber.ie](http://www.waterfordchamber.ie)

Address: Waterford City

***North of Freshford and Kilkenny***

**17<sup>th</sup> of March: St Patrick's Day**

[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)

**April: Easter Trail at Castlecomer Discovery Park**

Web: [www.discoverypark.ie](http://www.discoverypark.ie)

**October: Halloween at Castlecomer Discovery Park**

Web: [www.castlecomerdiscoverypark.com](http://www.castlecomerdiscoverypark.com)

Address: Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny