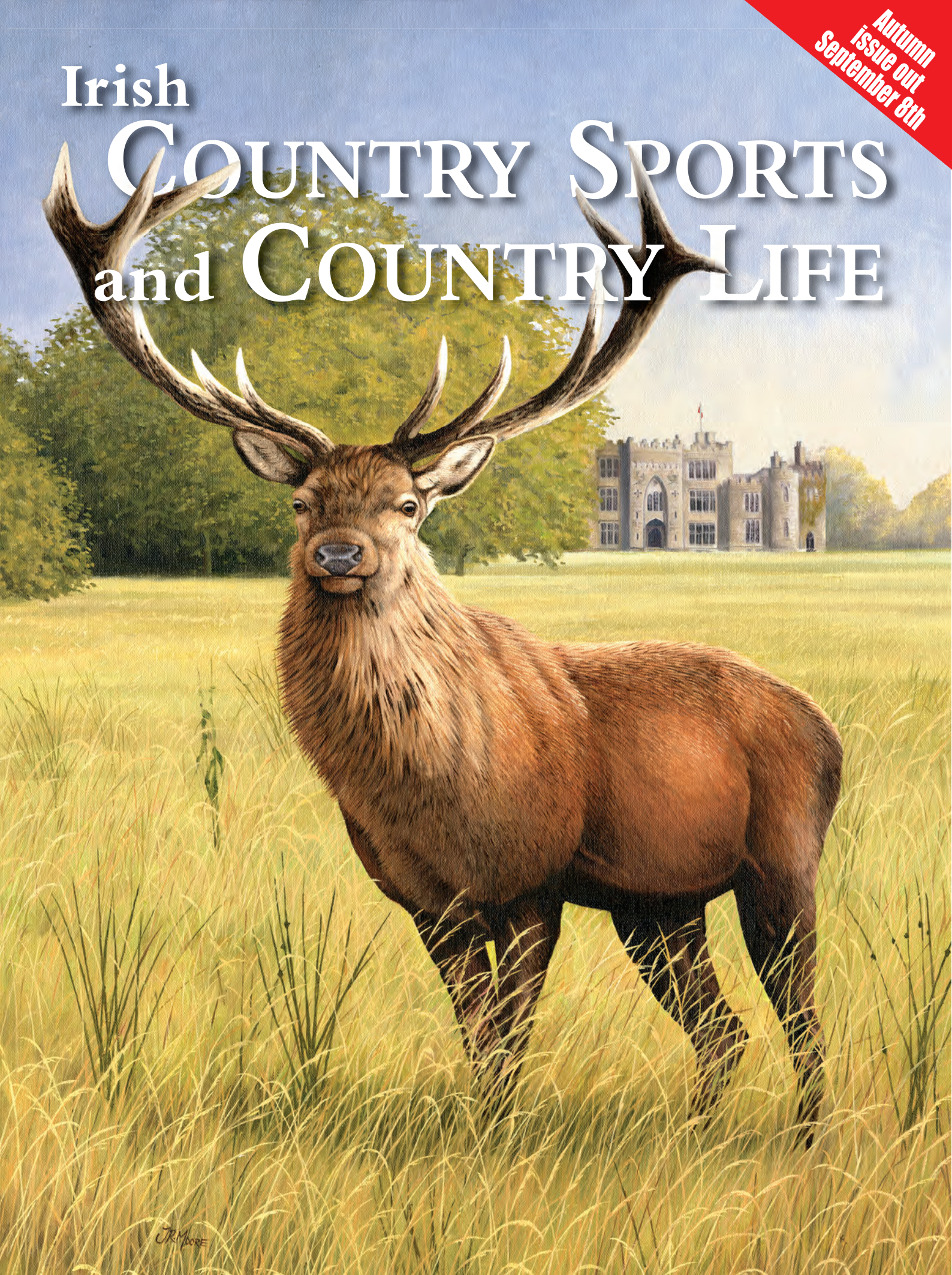


Autumn  
issue out  
September 8th

Irish

# COUNTRY SPORTS and COUNTRY LIFE



**SPECIAL GAME FAIRS ISSUE**



# **IRISH GAME & COUNTRY FAIR and FINE FOOD FESTIVAL**



**MEDIEVAL JOUSTING**



**FINE FOOD FESTIVAL**



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**GREAT COUNTRYSports COMPETITIONS**

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**For further details see: [www.irishgameandcountryfair.com](http://www.irishgameandcountryfair.com)**

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# Country Sports and Country Life Rol Comment

**E**very year thousands of people in the midlands look forward to the Irish Game and Country Fair in Birr Castle Demesne. The event is hugely popular and enormously loved in the region and about 30,000 attend over the two days each August.

Parents look on the Fair as an ideal event to bring the family, while members of the hunting community view it as a welcome opportunity to be amongst like-minded people. For two days the Demesne and the surrounding town buzzes with the massive influx of people, and an attractive atmosphere pervades the scene.

Many in Birr are very much aware of how fortunate they are to have such a lovely place as Birr Castle's gardens on their doorstep. The size of the Demesne is 50 hectares and contains within its considerable expanse tranquil waterfalls, rivers, a lake and Formal Gardens (including the world's tallest box hedges). Animals include otters, kingfishers, herons, swans, ducks and red squirrels. It is a very beautiful place and an ideal setting for the Irish Game and Country Fair.

This year's event is expected once again to attract very large numbers of people and bring in considerable revenue for local businesses.

I attended the press launch of the two Game Fairs at Shane's Castle and Birr Castle in Parliament Buildings at Stormont. I remember that what was emphasised during the launch was the positive cultural and economic impact of the Irish Game and Country Fair. Getting back to our rural roots is a source of considerable pleasure and also an opportunity to generate some much-needed income for the local region. Mary Hanafin, who was Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport at the time, said the Great Game Fairs of Ireland is a strong example of how events of a similar nature in the island of Ireland can, by working together, make the best use of combined resources, build on shared experience and foster co-operation and mutual understanding. 'I congratulate you,' wrote Ms Hanafin, 'and your colleagues at each of the Great Game Fair events for your dedication and hard work in promoting country sports across the island of Ireland.'

The organisers are grateful for the financial assistance provided for Birr's Game Fair, including sponsorship from Fáilte Ireland. Likewise, the people of Birr and the greater midlands region are very grateful for bringing the event to the area each year.

Lovers of fieldsports are bombarded on a regular basis with negative commentary about their chosen pastimes. It can be tempting to focus on this negativity and forget all the things which are so positive about our much-loved hobbies. Knocking things is a commonplace activity. What the knockers fail to mention is the personal and emotional interaction between fieldsports enthusiasts and the hobbies they are practising. Fieldsports can be social, great fun and fantastic exercise. They can also be a spiritual, emotional



experience, which is rarely mentioned but is there. Fieldsports are part of an ancient tradition stretching back many millennia to the first human hunters. They are pastimes which we should be able to proclaim without such widespread censure. Sadly however, that is not the reality of the situation and most of us learn to keep mum. Game Fairs are one of those happy occasions when we can talk openly about our hobbies without fear of censure. They also shine a light on the skills and beauty involved in fishing, shooting, foxhunting,

etc, whether it is the skill of flycasting, the impressive sight of well-trained gundogs responding obediently to the whistle, or the beauty of horses.

With its wide range of attractions, competitions, activities and displays Birr Game Fair appeals to those who live, work or play in the Irish countryside as well as to hunting, shooting and fishing enthusiasts. Ironically, despite the fact many fieldsports enthusiasts feel it's normally best to remain silent about their pursuits, there is also a very significant interest within the ranks of the general public in customs, crafts, food and sports rooted in our rural traditions.

It is also important to point out that the Hunting Association of Ireland states that hunting is very popular in this country and thousands of people are following it, from children to senior citizens. According to the National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC), in the Republic alone there are some 300,000 people who participate in at least one fieldsport, whether that be fox hunting, coursing, fishing or shooting. The participants are from all levels of society and from all religions. A couple of years ago in an article Des Crofton of the NARGC memorably pointed out that the Great Game Fairs of Ireland act as an important focal point for people's interest in fieldsports and all things rural. 'For many enthusiasts,' he wrote, 'this is their annual pilgrimage. The opportunity to spend time in an atmosphere which panders to our aspirations; to meet up and spend time with colleagues we may not have seen since the end of the last season; to see what is new; and most importantly to simply be ourselves.'

This year's Irish Game & Country Fair in Birr is following on from an enormously successful Game Fair at Shanes Castle in June. That success would seem to indicate that the public's appetite for the Fairs is stronger than ever and we are going to experience the most successful Fair yet in Birr.

There will be a number of competitions in the Birr Fair with very attractive prize funds, as well as an impressively large, tented village of trade stands. There will be fishing and shooting displays and new attractions including medieval jousting and a living history village.

Birr Castle Demesne on Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th of August will be a great place to be.

**Derek Fanning,  
ROI Editor**

# Country Sports and Country Life Northern Comment

## RECORDS TUMBLE AT SHANES

**W**e had the most successful game fair - EVER - at Shanes Castle in June so thank you to everyone who made it possible! So take a bow the whole Great Game Fairs of Ireland team - and of course the thousands of members of the public who trooped along to Shanes Castle to enjoy the sites and sounds of this splendid country event.

Set in the traditional splendour of a historic estate, in the lee of the ancient castle, well what a backdrop it was for something really exciting. The stage was set, we had all the ingredients for something special: record numbers of quality traders, a brand new angling show 'within a show,' quality entertainment all day long, and no less than three arenas as well as a viking campsite complete with its own longboat and a capacity number of well - quality - tradestands.

The sun shone, the temperature rose and the family fun flowed. The record crowds poured in, eager to experience their first traditionally staged country festival of the year. It was the sort of event that will be remembered by many, me included, for a long time to come.

## SPECIAL EDITION OF ICS&CL

Which brings me to why we are publishing this very special edition of Irish Country Sports & Country Life.

In one way it's a souvenir time capsule, capturing the sights and sounds of Shanes 2014 and it also marks a landmark for Irish Country Sports & Country Life. Yes, Ireland's favourite country lifestyle glossy magazine



now reaches around a staggering 80,000 readers per issue.

As well, we could not produce a magazine large enough to cover the record Shanes event and at the same time look forward to our great events at Birr and Montalto and include everything else we have in store for the Autumn edition. So rather than leave anything out, we decided on producing this special edition and we hope you approve.

Have a look inside and savour the sights and sounds of Shanes. If you weren't there, well we hope to see you next time, or better still come on down to Birr, Co Offaly for the Irish Game & Country Fair on 23rd and 24th August.

Birr Game Fair has an atmosphere and character all its own making it very special. Equivalent in size to the Shanes Castle's event, it offers so much that you won't find elsewhere - plus the stunning world-renowned estate gardens to enjoy as well.

Or why not do the full circuit and join the BRAND NEW Great Game Fairs of Ireland event at Montalto on 27th and 28th September.

Meantime, please 'like' our Facebook page and also join thousands of friends of the Great Game Fairs of Ireland on our group page. You will get the latest information just as it becomes available, and can enter our free competitions for fabulous prizes. And we'd love to have your feedback too.

Great Game Fairs of Ireland – fabulous family-based events in beautiful estates and now with a huge family of Facebook and magazine friends as well.

See you at Birr!

**Paul Pringle**  
Northern Editor



*Traditional vehicles and modern crowds at Shanes Castle.*



## DAFM CONFIRMS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN WILD DEER AND BOVINE TB



Kerry Mountain Red Stag (photo by Sarah O'Dwyer)

**Ireland's national representative body for deer hunters, the Wild Deer Association of Ireland (WDAI), recently met with senior officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) following claims by the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) that a major wild deer cull was urgently needed to combat bovine tuberculosis.**

The outcome of the meeting was the welcome confirmation that the DAFM are wholly satisfied there is no connection between the spread of bovine TB and wild deer, and this has now been made known to the IFA.

Data produced by the WDAI matched that of DAFM, with less than 2% of deer carcasses testing positive for bovine TB. This is in line with most other animals. It is understood an isolated area in County Wicklow has shown higher than normal rates of bovine TB amongst livestock, and

the IFA are blaming local wild deer.

Those who have visited Killarney National Park will have observed the park's famous deer herd and Kerry cattle grazing side by side whilst there have been instances of Bovine TB amongst the Kerry cattle the disease has never been detected in the deer herd.

A spokesperson for the WDAI stated: "Whilst we sympathise with landowners who are affected by bovine TB, to suggest wild deer are the cause is misleading and only serves to unnecessarily vilify our already decimated wild deer herds. WDAI work in a partnership with landowners in every corner of the country by providing an invaluable service of managing wild deer herds, while at the same time preserving Ireland's natural wildlife in an equilibrium ecosystem. It is important that unjust allegations are refuted quickly before more damage to Ireland's wild deer occurs."

A paper published in a prestigious scientific

journal on July 2nd in the UK, highlights ground-breaking new research showing how infected cattle missed by testing are key spreaders of the disease.

Information recently released by NPWS shows a continuous decline in Ireland's national deer cull numbers since 2010. The decrease is despite a significant increase in the number of hunting licenses granted to hunters during the same period. In County Tipperary, deer cull numbers declined by over 20% in 2012 and for the first time, NPWS have begun to refuse deer hunting licenses to hunters due to low deer numbers. In 2012, Minister Jimmy Deenihan removed red deer in County Kerry from the hunting season due to concerns that deer numbers were at dangerously low levels.

It is understood wild deer herds have been decimated in many areas as a result of illegal deer poaching. It is therefore important that unjust allegations are refuted quickly before more damage to Ireland's wild deer occurs.



# SUN SHINES AS RECORD NUMBERS STREAM TO A TRADITIONAL IRISH GAME FAIR AT SHANES CASTLE

Photographs by Derek Laverty, Jim Masson and David Titterington



**G**ame Fair Director Albert explained why nearly 28,000 visitors had poured into the sun-soaked splendour of the Irish Game Fair in the beautiful settings of one of Ireland's most magnificent estates:

"We simply provided what the public wants and expects from the Great Game Fairs of Ireland team - delivering great country sports and countryside events in beautiful traditional settings. This year we worked hard to make sure that Shanes was extra special, we accurately described to the public what

was on offer and they were not disappointed.

"We had a brand new focus on activities for young people, to give them a taste of the pleasure to be had in country pursuits. Our new Northern Ireland Angling Show ran inside the fair and people of all ages had the chance to learn flytying and casting, then go to the fair's special put and take fishery to catch their very first trout. Youngsters could then bring their catch to one of our celebrity chefs in the FLOGAS Fine Food kitchen to see how best to prepare and cook it. I think we have hit on a great way to hook new converts to the sport.





*The old castle was the perfect backdrop for George Logan complete with medieval maiden to take on the role of John de Courcy. De Courcy's work in Ireland will be one of the attractions at the new event at Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch on the 27th & 28th September.*







“We had the best ever range of competitions and the biggest prize fund, a huge tented village of trade stands with a real country lifestyle theme and three arenas operating with action packed programmes - the Main Arena; the 'Country Sports in Action' arena where the public could interact with the stars of the show and the Living History arena set in the midst of the re-enactors' Living History Village, with a timeline from the Vikings to the Normans, in the lee of the ancient Shanes Castle.

We even had a Viking longboat for youngsters to clamber over and explore.

The jousting display by the Knights of the Damned saw some thrilling action. The Main Arena buzzed all day long along with star displays of gundogs, muzzleloading, horses and hounds, falconry, long netting, ways of the old poachers, pipe bands and so much more as our aim was to try to entertain all ages and interests. While other events boasted about having a great arena programme we delivered much more in three arenas!

“Shanes also catered for the public's fascination with fine food especially with locally sourced produce and at Shanes, we had the best ever Fine Food Festival - the largest ever seen at any Irish Game or Country Fair - and some really exciting top notch game and fish cookery demonstrations.”

Commenting on the economic boost which the game fair makes to the local area, Albert said: “The record crowds at Shanes Castle, Antrim meant a vital economic boost for the

whole area. I know that hotels and guest houses were fully booked over the weekend and understand that some have even taken repeat bookings for next year. The economic boost is a huge bonus for the local economy given these tough economic times.”

And the last word on Shanes comes from just one of the thousands who enjoyed the event: ‘We had a wonderful family day out on Saturday - lovely mix of stands to keep us all happy! The food, clothing and shoes, apple juice and cider we got are top notch as usual and we met many old friends and made new ones along the way. In this day and age there's not many occasions where teenagers and parents are all in agreement about a good day out - this is a special day!’ This is what one of the person posted on Facebook and we are delighted that it is typical of the comments that our visitors made on Facebook, Twitter and to our researchers.

But with Shanes over, final touches are being made for the Irish Game and Country Fair at Birr, Co Offaly on 23rd and 24th August:

“Without doubt Birr Castle's game fair is the top fair in the Irish Republic. Historic Birr Castle is the backdrop and the public love the fair's unique style. With the special treats planned for Birr, with non-stop entertainment, surprise acts and attractions, the competitions, enormous prize funds, the huge commitment and support from the country's leading fieldsports bodies, and the world renowned Birr Castle gardens everyone is watching to if Birr will lift the Irish game fair crown.”





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# FINE FOOD PAVILION PROVES A HIT



*Chef Emmett McCourt discusses rabbit dishes with Dave Mc Cullough.*

This year's Fine Food Pavilion organised by Kathy Jensen from Flavour Ireland at Shanes Castle Game Fair was the best yet, with an eclectic line up of food and drink producers and a programme of cookery demonstrations that wowed the thousands of visitors who thronged the marquee over the two days.

Newcomers to Shanes in 2014 included Birgitta Curtin from the multi award-winning Burren Smokehouse, whose exquisite hot and cold smoked salmon proved a huge hit with visitors. Not suprising, as three of Birgitta's products won the ultimate accolade of three stars each in last year's Great Taste Awards, with her Cold Smoked Irish Organic Salmon with Seaweed being named on of the Top 50 Foods in the UK and Ireland. It was also served to the Queen at the state banquet when she visited Ireland two years ago.

We also had some amazing breads and sweet and savoury baked goods from Daisy Cottage Farm in Wicklow and Amber Catering & Cakes from Antrim, while Mr Muffin Man from Cavan sold out both days.

## RARE BREED BEEF

Outside, the Bruces Hill Cattle Company's Dexter burgers commanded lengthy queues, with satisfied customers then making their way into the Fine Food Pavilion to stock up on

the company's fabulous range of rare breed beef to take home. And the perfect accompaniment to your steak was at hand in the form of Cracked Black Peppercorn or Diane sauces from Dunola Fine Foods.

If it was jams, chutneys and relishes you were after, you could choose from traditional to those with a modern twist from Crossogue Preserves, Made with Love xo and Linen Hill Kitchen Deli, who also had some delicious buttery shortbread and traybakes on offer.

Old Irish Creamery is always a hit at Shanes and this year was no exception, with their range of plain and flavoured cheddars in big demand.

Flavours from around the world could be added to your shopping list too, with an amazing selection of top quality herbs, spices, oils, dips and much more from Your Inspiration at Home, while Stopinn offered an incredible array of Mediterranean olives, feta, stuffed vine leaves, nuts and baklava.

## DRINKS GALORE

To wash all that food down, there was refreshing apple juice and cider from Armagh Cider Company and Tempted, Crabbies Ginger Beer, the finest vodka and gin from Chase Distillery and craft beers from Carlow Brewing.





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Taking centre stage in the Fine Food Pavilion was the Flogas Kitchen, where Game Fair Chef Emmett McCourt demonstrated three delicious game dishes both days – one with rabbit, one with trout and the third with venison.

On Saturday, Sandy Cole from Broughgammon Farm made a beautiful loin of cabrito goat, while on Sunday he made a goat meat breakfast, complete with sausages, liver and kidneys and boxty. It was wonderful to see so many people tucking into offal and saying yum before heading over to Sandy's stand to buy some of his fresh goat meat products.

Emma Cowan came along on Saturday afternoon with two delicious desserts to showcase ArmaghBramley Apples - Almond Eve's Pudding and Apple and Oat Crumble, while special guest on Sunday was Asha Chada from Indian Nights Inn who wowed the crowds with her simple but very delicious Coriander Chicken Curry.

Last but by no means least, on Sunday afternoon, BirgittaCuritin from Burren Smokehouse joined Emmett McCourt on the Flogas Kitchen to talk about her multi award-winning hot and cold smoked salmons, while Emmett rustled up a couple of light and fluffy smoked salmon ommelettes!

## ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Next stop for the Fine Food Pavilion is, of course, the Irish Game and Country Fair at Birr Castle on 23rd and 24 August where we will have an equally exciting mix of fabulous food and drink to sample and buy – keep an eye on the Fair's Facebook page to whet your appetite!

And then we're off to Co. Down for the new addition to the Great Game Fairs of Ireland events, the Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Festival, taking place at the stunning Montalto Estate on the 27th and 28th September. At this wonderful new venue, the Fine Food exhibitors will be in the beautiful stable yard and Chef Emmett McCourt will be cooking in his new Feast or Famine mobile kitchen. Pop the dates in your diaries – this is one new event not to be missed!

Food on the ground was also a mix of great fast food, but also some delicacies as crepes, hog roast and good 'sit down' meals but also a new innovation by the caterers – beautiful cream teas served in the perfect setting of the old Railway Café. This one was won by one of our Facebook Friends.

## GUNDOGS

Ireland's largest and only truly international gundog weekend was, as usual, a huge success.

Saturday saw record retriever and spaniel test entries and a triangular Red Mills international match featuring English, ROI and NI teams. Nick Gregory from the English international team also carried out some super gundog demonstrations with his team of cockers.

Sunday saw international action with the Feedwell international team and individual events. A 10 strong Scottish team had made the journey and took on strong ROI and NI international teams in the morning and the cream of Irish

individual handlers in the afternoon. Scotland took the major honours with the team win and the top dog overall – a retriever with a perfect score!

In a run off between the top two spaniels and top two retrievers for top Game Fair dog overall the top retriever was the overall winner.

As usual the prize structure for these events was much in excess of that on offer at other smaller countryside events and it was good to see young and old competitors involved.

## TERRIERS, WHIPPETS AND LURCHERS

Once again the fair staged the largest terrier, whippet and lurcher weekend in Ireland and arguably one of the largest in the UK with the 27th Annual All Ireland Terrier, Whippet and Lurcher championships. This year being organised by Kieran Young and the Mourne Club. It was good to see former director Seamus Erwin present at the Fair. Seamus was responsible, with Albert, for developing the All Ireland Championships into Ireland's most prestigious terrier, whippet and lurcher event.

This year the weekend started off with a very exciting Red Mills Master McGrath final which had two previous winners in the field. A very exciting final heat was won by Gary Smith with Bono.

### **Other exciting racing sponsored by Feedwell followed.**

On Sunday it was the turn of the Massbrook All Ireland Show Championships and a record turnout under three UK judges saw Chris Angus with Gunner become Supreme Champion. The weekend came to an end with a new event the Five Nations Whippet Championships in the main arena. This was judged under a three judge system with two all round judges and a specialist whippet and was won by Graham Fyffe with Bolt David Best Runner Up with Penny.

### **Racing and Showing Results from Shanes Castle provided by Margaret McStay**

Over 23 Elite - Gary Smith with Lola, James Kelly with Kelly  
Under 23 Elite - David Nolan with Julie, Rose McCoy with Diego

Under 21 Elite - Nigel Greer with Kildrun, Rose McCoy with Zola

Over 23 - Jed Donagh with Flick, Brendan Creggan with Bolt

Under 23 - Nigel Greer with Lady, Jed Donagh with Taz

Under 21 - Michael Lynch with Jill, Brian Crothers with Nell

Terriers - Jed Donagh with Boe, Mal McFall with Spike

Whippets - Charle Rafferty with Lush, Ricky McIlwaine

### **\*Highlight of the Day 'The Master McGrath'**

**Winner Gary Smith with BONO**

**Reserve \*Michael Quinn with Mocharra**

### **Showing Results**

Children's Handling Class - Sophe McNama with Buttons.

Lady Handler - Janet Boyce with Taz, Gents Handling Class,

Mickey Quinn with Lady





*Crowds in the fine food pavilion.*



*(Above left) Crowds of children took over the Viking longboat.*



*(Above Right) Grunal Moneta – Dave Moneyer striking facsimile John De Courcy coins.*



*(Left) Vikings galore.*

*(Right) Ingrid Houwers – a multi talented taxidermist.*



*(Bottom left) A good display of vintage guns – one of four gun displays.*

*(Bottom right) An exciting finish to the Master McGrath Challenge.*





Overall Champion Handler - Janet Boyce with Taz

### **Lurchers**

Lurcher Pup Dog - Sophie McNama with Buttons, Lurcher Bitch Pup, Davy Best with Daisy

\*Overall Lurcher Pup Champion - Davy Best with Daisy

### **Lurchers**

Smooth Dog over 23 - Colin McKay with Flick

Smooth Bitch over 23 - Jed Donagh with flick

Smooth Dog under 23 - Mal McFall with Taz

Smooth Bitch under 23 - Fiona Devlin with Diva

Rough Bitch over 23 - Chris Angus with Gunner

Rough Dog over 23 - Conor McCormack

Rough Dog under 23 - Liam Clinton with Jet

Rough Bitch under 23 - Mark D with Booty

Lamping Dog or Bitch - Frank McGee with Rosie.

Coursing Dog or Bitch - Ricky Lennox with Kissa

Terrier Cross Dog or Bitch - Breandan Coleman with Bouncer

Racing Breed Dog or Bitch - Rose Mc Coy with Luna

Lurcher Pairs - Kirsty Harpur with Lola and Rufus

Vetern Dog or Bitch - Chrissy Loughran with Sam

\*Overall Champion Lurcher - Chris Angus with Gunner.

### **Terriers**

Terrier Dog Pup - Dessie Mackin with Mack

Terrier Bitch Pup - Dessie Mackin with Lucy

\*Overall Terrier Pup - Dessie Mackin with Lucy

Terrier under 12 - Eleanor Norman with Border

AV Working Terrier Dog - Peter Morgan with Chief

AV Working Terrier Bitch - Dessie Mackin with Tara

Russell Type Dog - Peter Conn with Frostie and owned by Dessie Mackin

Russell Type Bitch - Dessie Mackin with Annie

Lakeland Type Dog - Arlene Mc Clurkin with Tim

Lakeland Type Bitch - Breandan Coleman with Jet

Fell or Patterdale Dog - Peter Morgan with Blade

Fell or Patterdale Bitch - Peter Conn with Blackie

Border Dog or Bitch - Eleanor Norman with Harley

Cross Bred Dog - Stephen O Neill

Cross Bred Bitch - Ian Heslip with Meg

Vetern Terrier - Peter Morgan with Rex

\*Overall Champion Terrier - Dessie Mackin with Frostie

Reserve - Dessie Mackin with Annie

### **Whippets**

Whippet Pup Dog - Davy Best with Buddy

Whippet Pup Bitch - Kathy Knox with Roxy

\*Overall Whippet Pup Champion - Kathy Knox with Roxy

### **Whippets**

Whippet Dog - Kathy Knox with Barney

Whippet Bitch - John McStay with Patch

Working Whippet Dog - Graham Fyffe with Bolt

Working Whippet Bitch - Jason Dunwoody with Maggie

Whippet Pairs - Mickey Quinn

Veteran Whippet - Tracy Gill with Lola

\*Overall Champion Whippet - Jason Dunwoody with Maggie

\*Overall Show Champion - Chris Angus with Gunner

Reserve - Dessie Mackin with Frostie

\*Overall Puppy Champion - Dessie Mackin with Lucy.

Reserve Kathy Knox with Lucy

5 Nations Champion of Champion - Graham Fyffe with Bolt

Reserve 5 Nations Champion - Davy Best with Penny.

Once again the prize fund for the terrier & lurcher weekend vastly exceeded any other event in Ireland and from the excellent turnout there was absolutely no doubt that where terrier, whippets and lurchers are concerned the All Ireland Championships at Shanes Castle is the REAL one to win.

## **ANGLING**



This year with the support of DCAL, APGAI Ireland, NSN, FISSTA and the UAF and a number of members of the trade, Shanes Castle was the place to be for the launch of an angling show within the fair under the direction of Stevie Munn. With great prizes supplied, the casting competitions were a huge success, with celebrity chef Emmett McCourt showing he is no slouch with a fishing rod by coming second. AM Angling also played their part in making this a fair to remember for one angler by putting up a package not far short of £500 for a draw for all anglers visiting their stand.

However the real plaudits must go to Mark Tierney and the team from NSN backed up by APGAI Ireland and Emmett McCourt who really delivered a unique angling experience for kids. Having had lessons in fly tying, and casting from APGAI



*Two year old Ted Beattie was the first customer.*



Ireland team including Glenda Powell and Stevie Munn, they then could try out these skills at the 'Put & Take' Fishery supported by DCAL but organised impeccably by the NSN team. Having caught a fish they could then have it filleted by Emmett's assistant and cooked by Emmett in the Flavour Fine Food Pavilion

With a record breaking attendance at the two day game fair, the NSN team provided full guidance and supervision including rods, tackle etc. Over ninety boys and girls took part and for many this was their first experience in catching a fish and while many decided to take their first fish home for supper, many were happy to experience the principle of catch and release. Some even partook of the skills of local celebrity chef Emmett McCourt and tasted their catch before leaving the fair!

Dr. Bethany Sinclair, represented DCAL and observed the proceedings and was invited to choose the winners of the fundraising raffle and drew the name of Edmund Hughes from Belfast as the winner of the star prize of a custom made fly tying vice, hand crafted by Paul Smith, the NSN Vice Chairman. The "put & take" event was made possible by the co-operation between the Great Game Fairs of Ireland and DCAL Inland Fisheries who kindly provided strong fighting rainbow trout from their hatchery at Movinagher. The trout were stocked in a contained stream, prepared specifically by NSN for the event. All methods of angling were catered for and the uptake was high over both days.



*Scores of happy children got their first taste of fishing at Shanes Castle.*

NSN Chairman Willy Darragh commented: "It was great to see so many boys and girls having a go. The future of angling in this province requires a concerted effort to encourage and educate kids from an early stage. We commend both Albert and the game fair team and DCAL fisheries for putting this enterprise together for the benefit of junior angling. For many

children this was their first time fishing and their smiles said it all. Nearly everyone left with a fish, parents were delighted and the NSN team found it to be a rewarding experience and would like to extend our thanks to all who helped and supported in any way."



*This budding angler learns the best way to cook his catch.*

John Blair from DCAL commented: "The DCAL Inland Fisheries Group is delighted to have been involved as a main exhibitor at the Shanes Castle Irish Game Fair 2014.

This increased the Department's profile and we were pleased by the organisers decision to offer admission fee discount vouchers to DCAL licence holders. Staff at the event saw an increased number of visitors to the DCAL stand and welcomed the opportunity to engage with anglers and other stakeholders at the show.

We look forward to forthcoming shows at Birr Castle and Montalto and participation at such events, coupled with our current Angling Community Outreach Programme, is attracting new groups and individuals, particularly young people, to the sport.'

We have been encouraged by the number of groups that have contacted DCAL Inland Fisheries Group to enquire about getting involved in angling following our attendance at the Game Fair."

## SHOOTING

As usual the clay shooting organized by Kenny Thomas and the Ballydugan club was a huge success. With three guns to be won sponsored by Donal Mc Cloy and David Brennan and a number of excellent prizes it was great to hear the sound of shooting echoing across the fair throughout the two days.

Organisations – The sporting organisations were there in force.

## THE SPORTING ORGANISATIONS

All the main Irish and NI sporting organisations were there



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*Top Gundog Team - Scotland - in the retriever international.*



*(Above left) Top Gundog Overall.*

*(Above) Judging in the Ferret Show.*

*(Above Right) Jamie Clegg gives a special award to the youngest gundog competitor Ms K Thomas.*

*(Right) John Binley and Martin Lavery from Massbrook with All Ireland Supreme Champion Chris Angus's Gunner.*



*Jenny Crozier from sponsors Red Mills with the Top Spaniel handler.*

*(Bottom Left) Winner and Runner Up in the Master McGrath Challenge Gary Smith with Bono and Michael Quinn with Mo'Chara.*



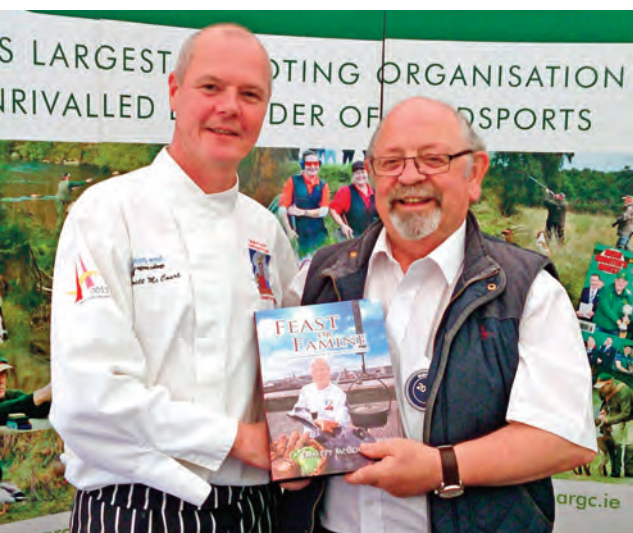
*(Bottom right) Five Nations Whippet Champion Graham Fyffe with Bolt and Reserve Champion Davy Best with Penny*







*Jim Shannon MP with Fair Director Albert Titterington at the opening.*



*Emmett McCourt presenting Des Crofton of the NARGC with a copy of his book Feast or Famine.*



*Lyall Plant CE of CAI with Jim Shannon MP.*



*.(Above) Spectacular Gundog Action.  
(Below) The stand FISSTA was very popular.*



*(Above) Great display of guns by Donal McCloy.  
(Right) Former Game Fair Angling Director George Legge (80 plus years young) visiting the UAF stand.*







(Above) The NARGC Shooting Simulator kept visitors of all ages entertained for the two days.

in force. CAI, NARGC, FISSTA, UAF, NSN, APGAI Ireland, IWTF plus all manner of smaller campaigning organisations and conservation organisations such as RSPB, Woodland Trust, UWT, etc and SACS made their debut.



Two up and coming enthusiasts – Sam (left) and Jonathan (right) from County Tyrone at the CAI stand.

## CLAY PIGEON RESULTS

Saturday A/AA 1st David Marshall, 2nd William Carroon. B/C 1st Eric Johnston, 2nd Boyle. U/C 1st Richard Lightbody, 2nd Ken Hugh's

Overall winners A/AA 1st D Marshall, 2nd J Burns, 3rd C Carronn, 4th P Brown, 5th C Aiken. B/C 1st W Johnston, 2nd G Donnelly, 3rd J Kirkpatrick, 4th N Boyd, 5th C Gorman. U/C 1st M Keatley, 2nd R Lightbody, 3rd C Kearney, 4th K

Hugh's, 5th G Donnelly.

100 Yard Teal Winners £100 each day

Saturday M Keatley / N woods Sunday C Gorman / S Owens

Pool Stand Winners Saturday D Marshall £150 Sunday D Marshall £155

20 Bird Compact Saturday J Burns £200 Sunday J Burns £200

All results were heavily fought out by shoot-offs and well done to all the winners

## ONE RECORD GAME FAIR - NOW ON TO THE NEXT

The weather and staff at Shanes Castle played their part as the venue had never looked more grand and verdant. Interestingly, the contrast between this action packed show in a fantastic historic estate and other events staged in almost urban setting was one of the things most commented on throughout the two days.

It reinforced the Great Game Fairs of Ireland's focus – to deliver GREAT GAME FAIRS and country living events in beautiful traditional venues.

AND of course following on from Shanes Castle the team will be organising events in two of Ireland's most beautiful and historic estates – Birr Castle, Co Offaly on the 23rd & 24th August ([www.irishgameandcountryfair.com](http://www.irishgameandcountryfair.com)) and Montalto Estate, Co Down on the 27th & 28th September ([www.ballynahinchharvestfestival.com](http://www.ballynahinchharvestfestival.com))





# COUNTRYSPO RTS AND CONSERVATION AWARDS

*Our objective with the Shanes Castle Game Fair is to demonstrate to the widest possible audience how countrysports, farming and conservation can work together for the preservation and promotion of the Irish countryside and the rural way of life.*

*We are proud to work so closely with individuals, such as those mentioned here, who share that vision and we take genuine pleasure in honouring their contributions to preserving and promoting country sports and all that is best of our rural traditions.*

**Mayor of Antrim, Councillor Brian Graham** is pictured receiving a gift from Lindsay Carlisle, official stick maker to the Great Game Fairs of Ireland. Councillor Graham has been quick to embrace the theme and is, I know, passionate, about developing the tourism potential of Antrim's beautiful countryside; its rich historical associations, heritage crafts and traditional sports and interests. In particular he has identified the tourism potential of angling in the Borough and he has shown particular interest in the new Angling Fair which we have introduced within the expanded programme for the 2014 Irish Game Fair & Flavour Fine Food Festival at Shanes Castle.







Ken Lindsay, Director of Gundog Competitions at the Fair, presented **Danny O'Neill** with an award in recognition and celebration of what was described as 'a lifetime devoted to gundogs'. For twenty-five years Mr O'Neill served as Treasurer of **Antrim Down Spaniel Club** and today he continues to share his expertise and experience not only with his fellow club members, but also with anyone who has an interest in the breed. Ken Lindsay said: "Danny is one of the most respected handlers around and his knowledge of spaniels is unsurpassed. We count ourselves extremely fortunate to have his input and our show is all the richer for his knowledge."

**Ashley Graham**, honoured for her role within the Countryside Alliance Ireland, was presented with an award by



Paul Pringle, Director of the Great Game Fairs of Ireland. Ashley supports around 12,000 Countryside Alliance members with the utmost calm and efficiency, never appearing flustered or impatient and always ready with encouragement and praise for others' efforts. She is as modest as she is efficient and the Countryside Alliance Ireland is fortunate to have such an asset. She is widely recognised as a cornerstone of her organisation and a superb ambassador for its work.

Honoured posthumously was **Aldergrove man John Shaw Brown**, the lifelong huntsman who was Joint Master and Huntsman with Sunnylands Beagles for thirty-five seasons. Paying tribute to him, Albert Titterington said: "John Shaw Brown was taken all too early, but leaves an outstanding legacy to all of us who love country sports. He was an iconic huntsman with a real gift for communication, a valued and faithful friend of the Great Game Fairs who worked hard to share his enthusiasm for hunting with others. I was proud to count him a friend and I know that sentiment will be echoed by many in the country sports fraternity. On behalf of them all, I am delighted to present to his widow, Liz Brown, our premier accolade: the Major William Brownlow Award." Liz Brown is pictured receiving the award for John Shaw Brown from Eveleigh Brownlow, widow of Major William Brownlow and Albert Titterington, Director of Great Game Fairs of Ireland.



**Deidre McCoy** was honoured in recognition of a lifetime of work dedicated to breeding, training and working terriers and lurchers. Deirdre was presented with a trophy by Albert Titterington, Director of the Great Game Fairs of Ireland, who praised her longstanding contribution to the world of sporting dogs. He said: "For too many years terriers and lurchers have been under-appreciated but Deidre refuses to have her favourite breeds dismissed as the 'Cinderella' of sporting dogs! Over the years she has worked steadfastly to enhance the reputation and raise the profile of terriers and lurchers and today her name is synonymous with these great working breeds and I am pleased to say that terrier and lurcher events are amongst the most popular of the 'doggie' attractions at Shanes Castle each year. Deidre is a true champion of country living with a remarkable insight into what makes dogs tick!"



Also in the photo is renowned breeder and trainer Margaret McStay, who added her congratulations as Deidre McCoy collected her award.



**Michael Martin** was honoured for his important and varied contribution to angling and conservation. Michael is not only an accomplished writer and wildlife photographer, he is also one of the most passionate and focused conservationists in Northern Ireland today. His determination to preserve our fish stocks for the future is an inspiration to all of us, as is his work to introduce children and young people from a variety of backgrounds to the sport of angling. We at The Great Game Fairs of Ireland are deeply appreciative of the contribution he makes to our shows at Shanes Castle and at Offaly and we look forward to his creative input enlivening our new show at Montalto in County Down this Autumn, when he will create still more opportunities for young people to try angling – famously the largest participation sport in these islands. Michael is a true champion of country sports and a great angler. Michael is pictured receiving his award from Paul Pringle, Director of Great Game Fairs of Ireland.

**Paddy Keenan**, a member of the Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructors Ireland, (APGAI) received his award in recognition of his commitment to angling and fish stock conservation. Paddy's longstanding contribution to the world of angling is



indeed well known, as is his passion about angling. He a tremendous campaigner, working to protect our fish stocks and his insight and knowledge combine with a fierce determination always to do the best he can in the interests of the sport of angling. When there are issues to be faced, he simply refuses to stand back and do nothing. His work with the 'No Salmon Netting' and 'No Salmon Farms at Sea' has been outstanding and is helping to bring about positive change. Paddy is pictured receiving his award from Albert Titterington, Director of Great Game Fairs of Ireland



**Steven McGonigal** received his award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to country sports, heritage and lifestyles. Mr McGonigal's wide ranging talents as an accomplished

journalist, author and photographer covering themes related to Irish country sports, pursuits and heritage are simply outstanding. He brings boundless enthusiasm as well as knowledge and insight to everything he does. He has a wonderful ability to inject life and energy into his work and this, coupled with great acting talent, has enabled him to create the character of 'The Victorian Poacher' – a true-to-life re-enactment which has become a firm favourite with tens of thousands of visitors to the Great Game Fairs! Steven's great sense of fun is well matched by his talent to educate and entertain together with a remarkable facility to communicate his knowledge and passion." Steven is pictured receiving his award from Paul Pringle, Director of Great Game Fairs of Ireland.



*Pictured is Peter Smith (right) receiving his award from Albert Titterington, Director of Great Game Fairs of Ireland.*

Two North Down countrymen were honoured in recognition of their outstanding commitment to country sports. They are two of Northern Ireland's best known and most respected gun dog experts: **Peter Smith** and **Ken Lindsay**. Their longstanding contribution to the world of gun dogs has seldom been equalled being blessed with expertise and experience and, as such, both are great exponents of the art of dog trialling. Peter Smith plays a key role in supporting the planning and staging of the ever-popular gun dog events at the



Great Game Fairs, while Ken Lindsay is the popular, energetic and accomplished Spaniel Director. These two men are very much 'at the top of their game', but are always willing to share their knowledge, expertise – and love of dogs – with others.



Ken Lindsay (centre) receiving his award from Lindsay Carlisle (left), official stick maker to the Great Game Fairs of Ireland, and Albert Titterington, Director of Great Game Fairs of Ireland.

Mark Tierney was also honoured with the presentation of a trophy. Mark



is someone who really has the courage of his own convictions and over the years he has been an active - and successful - campaigner, perhaps most notably in support of the No Salmon Nets organisation. He is absolutely passionate about angling and a fantastic ambassador for the sport, particularly when it comes to introducing young people to fishing. Mark is pictured receiving his award from Lindsay Carlisle (left), official stick maker to the

Great Game Fairs of Ireland, and Albert Titterington, Director of Great Game Fairs of Ireland.

**Joe Johnston** Gundog Director presenting Nigel Carville with his award for services to gundogs. Nigel is an International judge and handler who has made up many FT champions including winning the IKC Retriever Championship. He is also the man responsible for the massively popular 'Red Mills' series of gundog-related interviews in this magazine.



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## Birr Castle, Co Offaly Sat 23rd & Sun 24th August 2014

**Following the huge success of its partner fair at Shanes Castle, The Irish Game & Country Fair, in the beautiful setting of Birr Castle Demesne will be Southern Ireland's top fair this year!**

**T**his year it really has it all - a great programme of superb international competitions with prize funds unrivalled in Ireland and equivalent to the best in the UK; a huge tented village of trade stands including the **FLAVOUR IRELAND FINE FOOD FESTIVAL** and great displays of **SHOOTING & FISHING** tackle; and many new **ATTRACTIONS** including **MEDIEVAL JOUSTING** by the **KNIGHTS of THE DAMNED** and a **LIVING HISTORY VILLAGE**. The **WORLD FAMOUS GARDENS** and grounds of the Demesne are also open to the public including the **LARGEST TREE HOUSE** in Ireland, the revamped **SCIENCE GALLERIES** and the **GREAT TELESCOPE**.

*The Knights of the Damned jousting team will be appearing at Birr.*





## **BIRR CASTLE'S 'EPIC' BLOCKBUSTER GAME FAIR ANNOUNCED**

It's Lights, Camera, Action all the way as Ireland's Number 1 Game Fair rolls into Birr to create a show of epic proportions on 23rd and 24th August. No wonder the working title for this blockbuster event is 'Birr's Epic August Game Fair.'

The international acts are booked, the competitions now have the biggest ever prize fund of around €25,000, and there are more exhibitors and quality trade stands coming to provide the biggest and best game fair ever seen at Birr.

For the very first time in the Republic of Ireland, direct from the UK, there's medieval jousting with the stunning Knights of the Damned. History brought to life with the clash of lance and sword on shields and the thunder of horses' hooves. Away from the thrills of battle there's the Viking Village under the battlements of the castle.

Albert Titterington announced: "The overall competition prize structure has reached around €25,000 a really staggering total with local gundealers playing their part in making the Birr Fair a real country sports event as well as a fabulous family extravaganza."

Terriers and lurchers also have a real international focus with the two Red Mills Five Nations International Championships for Terriers, whippets and Lurchers. The cream of Irish terriers whippets, and lurchers will grace the main arena at 5.00pm for terriers and 5.30 for Lurchers to be judged under a three judge system for a prize fund for each competition of not far short of €1,000. Judging in Birr's ROI championships will start at 12.30 after the Mourne Digging Championship Final taking place at 12.00 noon. Racing sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland will take place on the Saturday at 12.00 noon sharp.

This year, Ireland's main sporting organisations have greatly increased their presence at the fair with the NARGC, FISSTA, Countryside Alliance Ireland (CAI), IFA Countryside all mounting sensational exhibits and really getting involved in the public and sporting activities

## **BIRR CASTLE ESTATE**

The Great Game Fairs of Ireland team organises events with real family appeal for all those who live work or play in the Irish countryside and apart from the attractions of the Game Fair visitors can enjoy many of the attraction of the Birr Castle Estate free of charge or for a small additional fee.

At Birr Castle there is something for the whole family - including world famous gardens, the largest tree house in Ireland, the giant telescope and the amazing Science Gallery.

Estate manager Michael Parsons highlighted a couple of recent innovations for visitors to enjoy:

### ***"Birr Castle Gardens and Science Galleries A Domain of Discovery"***

The Gardens of Birr Castle and the newly revamped Science Galleries are rich in flowers, rare trees, extraordinary

feats of science and engineering and wonderful wildlife. The Parsons family invite you to explore one of the most extraordinary places in Ireland. Created over generations it is an environmental and scientific time capsule.

### ***Tree house adventure area***

This adventure area inside the Garden houses Ireland's largest tree house as well as picnic areas, a bouncy pillow, sand pits and dens."

## **NEW SCIENCE CENTRE OPENS**

At the opening at the state of the art Science Centre, Ireland's main commentator on Scientific issues, Leo Enright, who has broadcast live commentaries on every major space event since the first Moon landing said "I highly recommend the new Science Centre at Birr, which focuses on the people behind all the discoveries – the human stories around the science - their working and family lives, and the local people, many of whose descendants still live in Birr who all contributed to bringing it together. Places like this, the Science Gallery and Dunsink Observatory in Dublin, Blackrock Castle Observatory in Cork, Armagh Observatory and W5 in Belfast are vital to continue to encourage generations to study Science."

Speaking about the new attraction, which is yet another innovation reflecting the heritage and scientific history of the Castle and the Parsons Family who have lived at Birr Castle since 1620, Lord Rosse said, "It's not rocket science to provide entertainment for the whole family, but with our new Science Galleries, the largest Treehouse and Adventure Playground in Ireland and our internationally acclaimed Birr Castle Gardens, we are leaving nothing to chance! We are thrilled to be providing a magical day out suitable for every member of the family - indeed we feel strongly enough to guarantee the visitor, irrespective of age, a fun filled day of adventure and discovery."

The Science Centre, which will bring a wonderful boost to tourism numbers in the Midlands, was supported by Fáilte Ireland through their Capital Investment Programme. Speaking today Gary Breen from Fáilte Ireland said "As the national tourism development authority, we are delighted to be supporting this development which is a significant addition to our national tourism offering and a fantastic asset to the Midlands. Increasingly, a successful tourism destination needs to be able to tell its story and to provide opportunities for visitors to engage with that narrative. The Science Centre allows Birr to do just that and I have no doubt will help to ensure there are plenty of reasons for visitors to come, and indeed return to Birr this year, and into the future."

With an insightful look at our reliance on science both historically and in modern times, the Science Centre is really is out of this world - with direct daily broadcasts from the Sun to Birr! Park the theory and ride the waves of discovery in this stimulating centre which transports us back in time and behind



*The Lake*



# The Beauty of Birr Castle

Photographs supplied by Damien Harte and the estate management.



*The Great Telescope*



*Birr Castle*



*The Formal Gardens*



*The River Walk*



the scenes of some world renowned Irish scientific discoveries such as the Great Telescope. So... who made it? What was their life like back then? Is it true that the Castle's Third Earl was so obsessed with his creations that he had the telescope project situated within direct view of both his dining table and bedroom window to enable him close visual access 24/7? You guessed it - It's all about asking questions at the new Centre! With a downloadable App to help you negotiate the many features populated throughout the grounds it's a perfect meeting of the past present and future.

Visitors to Birr Castle Gardens can also enjoy morning coffee, Brunch, lunch and afternoon tea and cakes at the Castle Courtyard Café, where all food is freshly cooked every day in the deli and kitchen. Visitors can also enjoy coffee-to-go, ice-creams from the Half Door in the Courtyard or book party picnics for children's birthdays or a delicious picnic to take to the Gardens. Private rooms are also available for events, parties, intimate weddings or launches.

Full details on the Birr Castle Demesne are available at [www.birrcastle.com](http://www.birrcastle.com)

### LIVING HISTORY AT BIRR

History brought to life with the clash of lance and sword on shields and the thunder of horses' hooves.

Away from the thrills of the Main Arena there's the Viking Village under the battlements of the castle.

The Viking theme has a resonance in Birr as it's thought that Birr monastery was attacked by Vikings in 841AD



You can interact with the 'Vikings' from Living History Ireland in the village, watch their crafts, see them fight, and quiz them about life centuries ago. Then 'Have A Go' at the archery stands in the walled garden with weapons of the period under the supervision of Cavan Instinctive Archery.

### SPORTING ORGANISATIONS AT THE FAIR

Quite uniquely the Fair is supported by all the main Hunting, Shooting, Fishing and Countryside organisations including the NARGC, FISSTA, CAI, IFA Countryside, HAI, IWTF and the Deer Societies.

These bodies recognise the Irish Game & Country Fair status as the ROI's national game fair and we are delighted to

promote their work to Ireland's country sports enthusiasts and the wider public.

Please do take time to visit the following organisations on their stands and also the many others who are exhibiting.

### NARGC AT BIRR 2014

*By Des Crofton, National Director.*

**The NARGC will again feature a major display at the Irish Game & Country Fair at Birr Castle. We'll have all the popular features in our marquee and some newcomers too.**

The NARGC merchandise shop will have unbelievable bargains for shooting and hunting folk and the range has been expanded. Margaret Neile, Ernie Beck, Shane O'Connor and John Munnelly will be there to assist anyone who wishes to make a purchase.

Jimmy Tyrrell will be there with his fly-tying exhibition and his mind boggling range of flies for sale. Jimmy is always a welcome participant with his lifetime's knowledge of fly fishing.

The Boleybrack Red Grouse Project to restore the local Red Grouse population on Boleybrack Mountain in County Leitrim will exhibit their work and the results to date. It is probably the best example of active Red Grouse management /restoration in Ireland and is generally regarded as the model for all similar projects. It is a joint venture between North Leitrim Regional Game Council, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the NARGC and Glenfarne Gun Club. It is a wonderful example of successful partnership between state and the voluntary sector with the Red Grouse, an iconic Irish game bird, as the beneficiary. Grouse keeper John Carslake will be on hand to advise clubs wishing to start a project and to explain what has been happening on Bleybrack Mountain.

Chris Gavican will be present at the NARGC Compensation Fund desk with advice and answers to questions about the very comprehensive level of protection afforded to club members by the Fund.

The 'John's Delight' desk is enormously popular and due to heavy demand is back again this year with game crop seed mixes.

Jim Corcoran, regarded by many as the NARGC's resident taxidermist, will also be on the stand with his magnificent and varied display of the mammals and birds of the Irish countryside. His work is superb and is much admired by many who appreciate wildlife. His individual exhibits provide wonderful opportunities to get close up to animals and birds.

There will be a Predator Control desk this year under the stewardship of Tom O'Connor from Kerry. Tom will offer advice to anyone who is interested in using the various control aids/traps.

NARGC National Safety Officer Tom Doheny will conduct a gun coaching clinic where he and his team will diagnose flaws and prescribe corrective action for game and clay pigeon shooters. There is sure to be huge demand for this.



# A Look at Barbour's Latest Collections

Barbour's Spring Summer collections build on the brand's most iconic pieces and themes to deliver practical and stylish outfits for everyday wear. The collections are designed to mix and mingle to build sophisticated looks for a co-ordinated summer wardrobe.



## Polo

Barbour has sponsored the Household Cavalry Polo team for over ten years. Each season, the team play in a number of tournaments including The Barbour Cup, first played in 2013. This collection is a celebration of that connection, featuring smart polo tops for all occasions.

*£84.95 for the polo top*



## Day at the Races

Horses and all things related have always been true Barbour territory.

A Day at the Races reflects elements of everything equestrian. The sense of excitement, the preparation, the anticipation and being part of a day out, come together in smart, tailored looks. Tattersall linings feature alongside the clever use of olives and browns.

*Tailored Blazer £269,  
Long Sleeved Shirt £59.95*



## Dress Tartan

Founder John Barbour was born in Scotland and Barbour's dress tartan takes its beautiful red, blue and stone colours from the Ayrshire District Tartan where the Barbour family roots have been traced back to the 16th century.

For Spring Summer, smart casual jackets with dress tartan detailing feature alongside co-ordinated lightweight knits and polos, providing the nod to summer.

*£99.95 for the sweatshirt,  
£44.95 for the shorts*

**Barbour's Spring Summer collections are in store now.**

For Barbour stockist details, please visit [www.barbour.com](http://www.barbour.com) or call **0044 191 427 4210**.





*The Busy NARGC Tent*

Cloghan Gun Club will provide an outdoor live bird display of a variety of game birds. James 'Woodie' Woods will be there to talk about the birds and their requirements.

The NARGC shooting simulator is another 'must see' with shooters and potential shooters pitting their skill against the computer. It is in constant demand throughout the two days of the fair, operating literally non-stop.

The NARGC/City & Guilds Game Meat Handling (Trained Hunter) Qualification will have an information desk on the stand. Those wishing to take the course can sign up in the marquee.

MacEoin General Merchants in the person of Mike Johnson is a regular exhibitor on the NARGC stand and Mike will there again this year. All manner of game and vermin control equipment and products will be on display for clubs.

A newcomer to the NARGC stand will be the Tayto Park mobile small animals' zoo. Tayto Park in Ashbourne is one of the most popular attractions in the country for visitors, especially families with its large range of adventure activities and rides and a magnificent zoo featuring Buffalo, various large African and American cats, Lamas, Eagles, Meercats etc.

NARGC will again sponsor the Best Novice Dog Handler Competition in conjunction with dog trainer, the very entertaining Keith Mathews. A cup will be awarded on each of the two days for best handler in the adult male, adult female and junior categories.

Nutts About Pets is a dog food company and Joe Fagan will be on the stand in person to meet dog owners. Visitors to the stand can expect to leave with a small sample of the product to try out on their dog. They will also jointly sponsor the Novice Dog Handler Competition with NARGC and will give each winner a large bag of their dog food.

East Coast Dog and Gun will be displaying and selling their range of high quality Joker Knives and also non-electronic callers for foxes. Incidentally, shooting folk should note that the sale and use of electronic callers for any wildlife is an offence.

Ger Burns, the NARGC Game Development Officer, will be at our Game Desk, where he will be on hand to discuss and provide advice to clubs on game, game courses and habitat management and where game DVDs can be viewed on large screen.

Deirdre Woods of Paws & Claws in Banagher will be along with a range of goodies for the discerning hunting dog. She

will also be providing a grooming service to dog owners.

Children are our future and NARGC will make a special welcome for young people who, after all, will take responsibility for the defence, promotion and management of fieldsports in Ireland in future years.

CIC Ireland will have official head measurers on the stand to measure deer heads for those who are interested. CIC is the international organisation which, among other things, sets the internationally recognised standards for trophy head measuring.

Concrete Dog Kennels are on the stand and they were a big hit last year. So, we have invited Ramone and his wife back and dog owners should look out for their products at the stand.

Another newcomer will be Paracordwest. This is a small venture which was set up by 15 year old Simon Spain. It makes very intricate and attractive fashion bracelets which have become very popular among the hunting set. This is a truly remarkable success when one considers the age of the promoter.

We have entered into a special home and travel insurance scheme for NARGC members with Kennco Insurance and representatives from the company will be on the NARGC stand to provide full information. This is a new exhibitor of course.

Another new participant with NARGC on our stand is Dunlop. The Dunlop brand is of course synonymous with quality boots for the outdoors and they will display a range of boots and offer advice on their various products.

Lastly, Gem Hardware in Cloghan has very kindly agreed to sponsor the trees and foliage which will dress the NARGC stand and give a particular feel to the displays and we wish to acknowledge this very welcome sponsorship.

We will also have a children's corner with free balloons, lollies and face painting, and the Fox and the Hound will roaming around meeting the kids and getting up to their usual devilment.

It only remains for me to thank the assistance given by Margaret Neile and the NARGC Shows Committee, all our exhibitors – both NARGC and others, NARGC Chairman Sean Doris and Treasurer Simon Devereux for their support, all the NARGC personnel who will man the various stands over the two days of the fair, Albert and Irene Titterington for their unstinted support not just for the fair but throughout the year and last but by no means least, my ever suffering assistant, Paula Malone without whose help many things simply would not happen

## **COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE IRELAND**

### **at The Irish Game & Country Fair at Birr Castle**

Countryside Alliance Ireland (CAI) is delighted to be exhibiting at The Irish Game Fair at Birr Castle once again.

The Fair gives CAI the ideal opportunity to showcase the organisation's work while engaging with members, potential members and the public in general.





Bill Docherty (BDS NI), Jenny Copeland (CAI) and Greg Kane (Chairman, BDS NI)

The CAI marquee will host the Wild Deer Association of Ireland with their collection of heads and deer stalking equipment and Lindsay Carlisle with his striking display of hand crafted sticks.

CAI is pleased to sponsor the ROI Game Fair Lurcher Racing Championships to be held on Saturday 23rd August and the All Ireland Stickmaking Championships.



Ladies winner - Johnny, Beverly and Ashley from CAI presenting Sinean and Murphy with their prize at Shanes for winning the ladies' category of the dog obedience class.

CAI Chief Executive, Lyall Plant comments "The Irish Game Fair at Birr Castle is the perfect forum for CAI to meet and chat with our members and supporters. The Fair offers something for everyone and we are delighted to have a significant presence and play such a vital part.

CAI work for everyone who loves the countryside and the rural way of life. Through campaigning, lobbying, publicity and education we influence legislation and public policy that impacts on the countryside, rural people and their activities and it's great to get out and about to speak with fellow country sports enthusiasts face to face"

We would love to see you, so please do come along to see

us and show your support for country sports and our rural heritage. **Lyall Plant, CAI Chief Executive**

## The Federation of Irish Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers Conaidhm na Slat Iascaíirí Bradáin agus Breac Geal

### F.I.S.S.T.A.

The Chairman of Ireland's Premier Angling body - FISSTA (Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers) Mr. Paul Lawton, is delighted to announce once again their participation in the Irish Game Fair at the very special venue of BIRR CASTLE. "Angling generates over €750m. and supports 10,000 rural jobs to the economy (source TDI) and Birr Game Fair has played their part in promoting this vitally important country sporting business at this time every year in our mid season. This annual event is the highlight of our country sports season where we meet our angling fraternity to discuss and monitor the mid season salmon and seatrout runs and returns from the great salmon and seatrout rivers of Ireland. It is a very special time for FISSTA to promote the salmon youth angling programmes which are run by over 80 clubs on the island.."

### WHY ANGLERS WILL ATTEND?

Anglers from all the main rivers and clubs of Ireland now gather in Birr to participate at The Irish Game Fair at Birr Castle to meet and exchange notes on developments in salmon and seatrout angling and conservation. The fair has built up a huge following over the past few years as a venue where clubs and businesses can promote their brand of sport angling to a fast growing market of angling enthusiasts who are planning and placing bookings for the 2015 season. This is where all issues are raised and addressed by club members who travel to what is now Ireland's premier country sports event in the countryside calendar for anglers. The Great Game Fairs of Ireland partnered with the premier magazine Irish Country Sports and Country Life which features our quarterly newsletter allows us to spread the FISSTA message of angling to a very broad country sports fraternity who support us in our everyday work. We are most grateful to Albert Titterington his excellent team at the fair and magazine for providing such professional fora and for their fullsome support and cooperation in helping FISSTA to bring salmon and seatrout angling to a wider public.

### FISSTA Stand at Birr Fair - Newcomers Fishing Advice

The FISSTA stand is hosting a one-stop advice centre where newcomers can get the following information and guidance:

**WHERE TO FISH** - where the nearest fishing is available - directions on how to access angling in your area such as salmon and seatrout especially

**HOW TO START** - and what tackle shop near you can supply you with the equipment needed to get started.

**JOIN FISSTA CLUB LOCALLY** - who can advise further - both at the show and in your local area.

**WHO WILL HELP** - where to get tuition - both at the show



and in your local area

**WHAT YOU NEED** - what equipment you will need and whose stands to visit at the show

**READ MORE ON ANGLING** - what to read up on where to get the books

**LEARN TO FLYCAST ON HOLIDAY** - where to fish and stay on an Irish angling holiday river

**CATCH UP ON ALL FISSTA CAMPAIGNS TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT OUR WILD ATLANTIC SALMON** - ESPECIALLY THEIR SUSTAINED OPPOSITION PROGRAMME TO MINISTER COVENEY'S TEN FISH FARM PLAN STARTING WITH THE GALWAY BAY APPLICATION

**ANGLING SUPPORTS 10,000 JOBS AND GENERATES €750m. LEARN MORE TO PROMOTE BUSINESS ALONG YOUR LOCAL RIVER**

### THE WILD DEER ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Ireland's national representative body for deer hunters, the Wild Deer Association of Ireland will be at the Irish Game and Country Fair,

The Wild Deer Association of Ireland (WDAI) has grown to become the largest organisation of its kind in Ireland, representing those involved in deer management, deer stalking and people with an interest in the conservation and well-being of Ireland's wild deer herds.

The Wild Deer Association of Ireland is recognised as a leading authority on wild deer in Ireland, hosting events throughout the year with the aim to develop the knowledge and skills of their members and the general public. They host numerous events, seminars and international deer experts on issues relating to deer and deer management. They work closely with government departments on issues of mutual interest and have been instrumental in amending legislation to the benefit of deer and those involved in their management. The Wild Deer Association of Ireland is one of the founder members of Deer Alliance, the assessment committee set up to oversee the Hunter Competence Assessment Programme (HCAP), which provides a first step to developing the knowledge and competence of deer managers and deer stalkers by providing a recognised qualification.

They are also a member of FACE which is recognised by the European Commission as the main discussion partner, representing Europe's 7 million hunters. Through their national membership and various social media outlets they run numerous campaigns promoting the discussion of topics such as the illegal taking of deer (poaching), road traffic accidents involving deer and the support of landowners who suffer genuine deer crop damage.

You can visit the Wild Deer Association of Ireland stand in the Countryside Alliance Ireland marquee. They will have a large display of trophy deer heads along with discounted deer-stalking and butchery equipment for sale. Trained head measurers from the Irish Trophy Commission will also be on



*Huge interest at the busy WDAI stand.*

hand to offer advice and assistance on measuring trophy heads. Medals and certificates can be awarded on the day if you would like to have a head measured. Membership can be paid by Wild Deer Association of Ireland members and new members are always welcome.

So please call in and discuss any aspect of deer or deer-stalking in Ireland.

### IFA COUNTRYSIDE

Director of IFA Countryside Adrian King is pleased to confirm IFA Countryside's attendance at this year's Irish Game & Country Fair. Our stand is sure to delight and appeal to all. We will provide valuable updates to our members' benefits package and personnel from IFA Countryside and IFA Member Services will be available to answer all your queries. IFA has negotiated a new improved Stena Line deal and to celebrate this Stena Line have given us a great prize so make sure to drop by and get your entry in.



*Members of the IFA Countryside Team.*

Garry Hendy, IFA Countryside Development Officer will be available to talk about exclusive club benefits and will provide details of our free game feed programme for pheasant and duck feeding.

Walter Phelan from the Irish Fly Fishing & Game Shooting Museum, Attanagh, Co Laois will join the IFA Countryside stand this year displaying some fabulous exhibits. Walter collects and exhibits items of fishing, game hunting, trapping and selected country sports exploring over 300 years. This will be a treat for anyone interested in country life. We are also fortunate to have Tom Kavanagh Walking Sticks at the IFA Countryside stand this year. Tom handcrafts sturdy and distinctive walking sticks, combining ancient and contemporary techniques. Each Tom Kavanagh Walking Stick is a work of a living traditional art so please make sure



to stop by and admire. Also adding to the gorgeous displays will be Michael Dunne, Taxidermy who will have a beautiful display of his work from his studio.

IFA Countryside delivers genuine benefits and savings for members including personal accident insurance and personal legal liability cover. Ireland's countryside continues to be a wonderful place to live, work and enjoy. We would love to welcome you to our stand at Birr or contact us anytime on 1890 924 982 or visit [www.ifacountryside.ie](http://www.ifacountryside.ie)

### IRISH WORKING TERRIER FEDERATION

This is the second year that the Irish Working Terrier Federation (I.W.T.F.) will be fully involved at Shanes Castle and Birr Castle, giving the I.W.T.F. the ideal opportunity to display their commitment to their work while engaging with all those in attendance at this prestigious country sports event.



“Our goal is of a vital, working and thriving working terrier service for the benefit of the farming and mainstream hunting communities. Through campaigning, lobbying, publicity and education we influence legislation and public policy that impacts on the working terrier world and rural activities. The Irish Game Fairs at Shanes Castle and Birr Castle are the perfect forum for the I.W.T.F. to meet and engage with our members and supporters”.

The IWTF were invited to put forward judges for the ROI Terrier & Lurcher Championships at Birr.

### THE SALMON & WOODCOCK PAVILION

This year again with the threat to our salmon stocks from the proposed fish farms it is the ‘Year of the Salmon & woodcock’ And this fishy theme is the focal point for the ‘Angling Village’ at Birr Castle with everything one would expect at a top class angling show and more! Masses of tackle and plenty of bargains, boats, angling competitions, instruction and demonstrations, vintage tackle, fisheries, sporting art, taxidermy, and even speciality game and fish cookery with Emmett McCourt and other chefs in the Flogas Kitchen in the Flavour Fine Food pavilion.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GAME ANGLING INSTRUCTORS -IRELAND (APGAI)

APGAI will be attending the Birr Game Fair with a programme of continuous workshops for casting and

equipment plus fly dressing covering the hot topics of today's game angling scene.

They will have a full complement of experienced coaches to create a number of interactive learning and discussion groups for the serious angler as well as a number of attractions for the young anglers with games and fly dressing competitions plus casting classes for young casters. We will be running a casting competition based around skill as opposed to distance with two levels “professional” and “amateur” with prizes of kit and equipment.



Joe Stitt and Arthur Greenwood of APGAI with some good reading material [www.apgai-ireland.ie](http://www.apgai-ireland.ie)

### COCHISE HORSES

The action packed arena programme of the Irish Game & Country Fair features one of the widest range of entertainment to be seen at any event in Ireland. The performance of the phenomenally well trained horses from the Cochise Stud is one of the many demonstrations that thrills the crowd.



This stud is run by Derek O'Byrne White the well known horse trainer, who has both entertained and awed crowds throughout Ireland with the results of his exceptional training skills and horsemanship. Derek will be at Birr with those well





*Fair Director Albert Titterington tries his hand at falconry.*

trained horses including a mare which is just back in Ireland after being crowned Champion of Champions at the recent European Championships. The display of the agility of the Paso Fino horse is demonstrated beautifully by the unique 4 beat gait of this exceptional mount and anyone with an interest in horses cannot fail to be impressed. [www.cochisestud.com](http://www.cochisestud.com).

### **From one legendary animal trainer to another - Keith (The Dog Guru) Mathews**

One of the stars of the dazzling main arena programme at Birr Castle will be the Dog Guru Keith Mathews - now a star on the international stage with his uncanny 'canine' ability.

Already the leading figure in canine care and the most widely recognised trainer in Ireland, Keith is now wowing audiences across Europe as well. And not just in dog training, but in almost every aspect of canine expertise, dog psychology and obedience training, behaviour modification, grooming, showing, nutrition and breeding to name but a few.

Keith will be giving main arena displays on both days of the Fairs, as well as conducting one to one clinics with pet owners on the Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine stand. His new training video - a must for all dog owners will be available to purchase along with his other latest releases

His presence at the Fairs adds to the event's reputation for the largest and certainly the most varied 'doggy' events in Ireland.

Keith has a unique ability in dog training and is a born entertainer, who will have the main arena crowds enthralled with his masterful displays. You will learn a lot from Keith while enjoying a display choc a bloc with sheer entertainment.

AND the NARGC is involved in Keith's training classes at the Fair by putting up a prize each day for the top lady, gentleman and young handler.

### **CANINE CAPERS**

With the International gundog retriever team and individual events; the novice and open spaniel tests, novice retriever and minor breeds tests; the Terrier & Lurcher Championships - show and racing; and horse and hound displays; plus a wide range of trade stands featuring everything the dog owner could possibly want and now Keith, these really are events not to be missed by anyone with any sort of interest in dogs.

### **Ferrets with Ireland's "Mr Ferret" Tony Carinduff**

The one man who has done more to bring the sport of ferreting to public notice and popularity is Tony Carinduff - this year celebrating 33 years of attending and displaying Ferrets at virtually all of Ireland's game or country fairs.

With his wife Margaret, Tony has taken his ferrets the length and breadth of Ireland and introduced literally thousands of young people to his ferrets and hundreds to the sport.



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As well as dispensing knowledgeable and sound advice on ferreting built up over a lifetime in the sport, Tony is also famed for the lavish hospitality dispensed on his stand.

### FALCONRY AT BIRR

Falconry is one of the oldest of the countryside sports with its beginnings stretching back to 2200 BC in the Far East, though it's true origins are unclear. It was brought to Europe by Germanic tribes who introduced it to Roman culture.

It thrived during the Middle Ages as both a method of hunting food (small game etc.) and as a sport in its own right among the nobles of the time. Falconry also flourished in the Middle East and Asia where the crusaders learned much from their Arab counterparts.

However in Europe in the late 18th century, with the advent of guns and their use in hunting, the sport dwindled and was limited to a few who continued the practice. The skill of the falconer and the amazing aerobical prowess of the birds continues to inspire awe amongst Game Fair crowds.

This year we are fortunate to have Trevor Roche from Dublin Falconry with his team of three assistant falconers to put on impressive free flying demonstrations and a large static exhibition. Trevor has been involved in Falconry since he was eight years old. And as he says himself, his passion for flying, hunting and displaying Birds of Prey is everlasting. His huge experience and expertise is second to none having flown many species of Hawk and Falcons including; Kestrels, Sparrow Hawks, Red Tails, Harris Hawks, Peregrine/Saker Falcon Hybrid, Peregrine/Prairie Hybrid, Peregrine Falcon and Tiercel, Eagle and Snowy Owls.

At the moment Trevor is flying a young female, parent reared, Finnish Goshawk, a beautiful creature, and flying at 2lb-6oz, she's the real deal. Well mannered and impeccably behaved, she commands the highest respect. Another beauty is his Peregrine/Prairie Hybrid Tiercel. He is a small Falcon, but packs a big punch. He flies at 1lb-2.5oz. and is a little game Falcon. [www.dublinfalconry.com](http://www.dublinfalconry.com)

### THE VICTORIAN POACHER REMAINS AT LARGE

Over a century ago one type of person made their living by keeping a wary eye out for the local village constable. Every rural county had at least one of these rogues - the poacher - who caused the local coppers no end of trouble.

Unafraid of the law or the judges who might well choose to send the poacher to jail or even to the colonies, he went his wily way on a 'shiny night' in an effort to put food on the table, or maybe even make a shilling in the process.

Steven McGonigal is keeping the traditional skills of the poacher alive with this unique act.

Will the 'keeper get the cuffs on the Poacher? We may just find the answer at Birr!

Longnetting, with the help of his amazing little whippet towering over the nets in their attempt to catch coney is what Steven does best - legally of course - in an effort to reduce the

rabbit population in infested areas of the countryside and help farmers protect their crops. He showcases this lost art alongside many of the poacher's long lost arts.



*Stephen McGonigal shows Emma Cowan from the Flavour Fine Food Festival some of the gear he uses to acquire the rabbits that are used in the cookery demonstrations.*

We have heard the poacher bragging 'no one can stop me especially a gamekeeper!' What he doesn't realise is that the keeper is in fact dangerous adversary just recently employed by his Lordship.



*Fast Hands Eddie Dash.*

This is none other than the bucolic, no nonsense and bewhiskered keeper known as 'Fast Hands Eddie Dash' - so named for his fame as bare knuckle fighter in his youth and for the fact that not only did he pack a fearsome punch in either hand but his hand speed was such that his opponents didn't see the punch coming. Although now slightly slower of hand and foot 'Fast Hands Eddie' is still rather fond of exacting summary justice with gnarled and rough hands or more often now with a pick axe handle on anyone caught poaching on his patch.

It's time to take the gloves off with regard to this slippery poacher. And how better way than to pit the former Bareknuckle Champion of Dalriada against the elusive poacher!



So if you ever had a hankering to see the wily ways of the poacher, all will be revealed at Birr - right under the nose of Fast Hands Eddie.

Will this be the poacher off to the colonies - or worse? We just have to wait and see!

### THE ALL IRELAND STICK MAKERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

organised by the Celtic Stickmakers Club

The championship will take place at the Irish Game and Country Fair ,Birr Castle, Co Offaly on Sunday 24th August

Champion will win an engraved tankard to keep and €200 plus The John Mc Clelland Memorial Perpetual Annual Trophy. Second place will win €100 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland Rosettes in each class sponsored by the Celtic Stickmakers Club. Special Memorial Perpetual Trophy presented in memory of Philip Lawton for the best fancy stick. Philip was the club's first secretary.

Classes

Mountain Staff or Hill Walker : wood all horn including ram, buffalo, cow and antler

Horn Thumbstick Plain

Wood Thumbstick Plain

Leg Cleek: horn, wood - one or two pieces

Horn Market Stick : ram

Wood Market Stick : one or two pieces

Blackthorn Walker : horn or wood plain

Wood Walker ; any head wood or horn

Fancy Stick : any carved wood, horn, buffalo, ram or antler

Novice Horn: any horn handles stick plain or fancy

Novice : wood any wood handled stick plain or fancy

Cardigan Stick: wood one piece or two pieces

Cardigan Stick : horn

Horn Market Stick :buffalo

For further details contact : Tom Kavanagh 057-8629068 E: kavanaghtom@eircom.net

### HUGE TENTED VILLAGE OF TRADE STANDS

Wide range of trade stands for the whole family to enjoy including a Gunmakers Row; a Fisherman's Row and a Gundog Row - all bursting with products necessary for your sport. Plus country clothing and fashion to suit all tastes and pockets; a Craft Tent; Art Gallery; THE FLAVOUR IRELAND FINE FOOD FESTIVAL; Sporting Holidays; Renewable Energy; home & Garden equipment - in fact something to interest anyone who lives, works or plays in the Irish Countryside.

### SPORTING ART

The tented village will have a number of works of art on display including a major exhibit from John R Moore, who has produced a number of iconic paintings associated with the Great Game Fairs of Ireland - The 'Salmon on the Glendun River' to illustrate the overall angling theme of the fairs and 'The Massereene Hound' - a fantastic painting bringing the

legend of the Massereene Irish Wolfhound to life and his 'Red Stag at Birr Castle'



### A FEAST OF FINE FOOD AT BIRR



*Crowded Food Hall.*

Building on the success and popularity of the new Fine Food Festival at the Irish Game and Country Fair at Birr Castle in 2013, this year's pavilion promises to offer visitors an even more exciting line up of some of Ireland's finest food producers.







*The Old Irish Creamery stand is always popular.*

Making a welcome return are favourites such as Old Irish Creamery with their plain and flavoured cheddar cheeses; Crossogue Preserves jams, chutneys and curds; Forthill Farm's rare breed beef and pork; Tara Jams preserves and relishes; and Newrange Gold's rapeseed and camolina oils.

These are being joined by a number of wonderful newcomers, including Burren Smokehouse with their multi award-winning hot and cold smoked salmons; Highbank Orchards apple juices, ciders and syrup; Wildwood Vinegars white wine vinegars and dressings infused with foraged plant extracts; Spice Devils Mauritian spices; Harnett's Oils rapeseed oils and dressings; Stopinn's incredible selection of Mediterranean olives, stuffed vine leaves, feta cheese, nuts, baklava and Turkish Delight; Excellence Butcher's South African biltong; and a choice of global flavours in the form of herbs, spices, dips, oils, dukkahs, etc from Your Inspiration at Home, to name a few.



*Emmett in action with some Burren Smokehouse Salmon*

Game Fair Chef Emmett McCourt will be in action throughout the two days on the Flogas Kitchen, cooking up some tasty and inspiring game dishes, but we will also have some guest cookery demonstrations showcasing product from our exhibitors.

This is just a taster of what's in store in the Fine Food Pavilion at Birr Castle on 23rd and 24th August – keep checking out the Game Fair Facebook page to whet your appetite more

## **GUNDEALERS AND CLOTHING COMPANIES PLAY THEIR PART IN MAKING THE BIRR FAIR A MECCA FOR COUNTRY SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS**

The fair has always offered patrons a fantastic range of hunting, shooting and fishing accessories including an extensive range of country clothing stands from people like Charlie Keenan, Duck Dri , Edinburgh Clothing, Pigeon Decoying, Smyths Country Sports -

Ireland's largest retailer of Barbour products etc all with several bargain prices.

This year the gun trade has come out in force to offer one of the largest selection of guns and accessories ever seen at any fair in Ireland.

Gundealers exhibiting this year include Connolly's - also with their magnificent range of dog food on display; Casale 2000 Ltd from Cashel with a great range of Caesar Guerini and other shotguns; Abbey Marine with their guns and air rifle stand, Lakeland Shooting Centre, Tullamore and Wildhunter from Athlone.

Tom Kirwan, From Lakeland Shooting Centre in Tullamore, Francesco Morelli from Cashel and Brian Connaughton from Athlone have also been joined by David Brennan from Ardee Sports and George Kelly from Millard Brows in Dublin to make the prize fund available for clay pigeon shooting at the Irish Game & Country Fair, Birr Castle 23rd & 24th August one of the very best ever seen in Ireland.

### **CASAL 2000 Ltd**

Will be displaying a comprehensive range of Caesar Guerini shotguns with a 15% discount offer, together with a great range of accessories and archery and Angling equipment. Not only will one lucky shooter take away a Caesar Guerini Automatic Shotgun for simply shooting in the Game Fair Championships but all visitors to the stand can enter a draw for virtually all the equipment necessary to take up archery including a superb Recurve Bow with the Morelli brand.



*Francesco Morelli with the prize Caesar Guerini shotgun and some of the range of quality shotguns that will be on display.*



VISIT the **CASALE 2000 Ltd** Stand at the  
**BIRR GAME FAIR**

**For a special 15% discount offer on the fabulous range of**

 **CÆSAR  
GUERINI** Shotguns



APEX SPORTING



**Also see our huge range of shooting & angling accessories and archery equipment - every visitor to the stand is entered into a draw for a RECURVE BOW and full archery kit worth €200.**

Or visit our shop or website:

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Francesco and Tom from Casale 2000 with the archery ballot prize.

## LAKELAND SHOOTING CENTRE



Blaser K95

Tom & Niall Kirwan will be joined on the Lakeland stand by Darren Hull, EU Sales & Service manager with Blaser. They will also mount one of the finest exhibits of top quality guns ever seen in Ireland including 'top of the range' Blaser & Mauser shotguns and rifles including the Blaser K97 and K95 plus the €22,000 plus Blaser Custom 2 and other quality shotguns. They will also have a range of Zeiss Optics including the new Zeiss V8 26mm scope.



Blaser Custom 2 Shotgun

Tom & Niall will be sponsoring a Brixia shotgun for the clay shooting and will also be exhibiting some fine examples of this new brand.

## WILDHUNTER WILL BE DISPLAYING ATA ARMS AT BIRR

ATA Arms are a premium Turkish gun manufacturer and Wildhunter are delighted to be appointed sole distributors in Ireland and the UK. So much so that they had a custom made exhibition stand built for their debut at the CLA Fair and will now be bringing it to Birr.

The original founder of ATA Arms Mr Celal Yollu was born in 1942 and expressed a strong interest in guns from a very young age. In 1955 before his 13th birthday he repaired a rifle that could not be fixed by gunsmiths. His interest and enthusiasm in guns and his engineering talent developed and in 1959 he opened a small workshop, where he created his first single barrel shotgun. This was followed in 1967 by him producing the first side by side shotgun in Turkey. From there the business blossomed and he started part production and sales. In 1973 he created the first Turkish over and under shotgun.

In 1990 Mr Yollu moved to Istanbul from Kayseri incesu where he was born. He continued to develop new products and he produced the first Turkish Semi – Automatic under the Vursan brand in 1992. Mr Yollu created the ATA Brand in 1997 along with his two sons.

In 1998 Vursan began to manufacture guns. In 2000 Vursan caught the attention of world leading companies. Beretta made an offer to go into partnership and it was accepted in 2000. After working together for 2 years and making many shotguns together, Beretta bought Vursan in its entirety. The Yollu family continued to make world class shotguns under the ATA brand.

Mr Yollu passed away in 2010 but ATA Arms continues its success story under the leadership of his two sons Mr Yavuz and Fatih Yollu who can boast of 60 years of combined experience in the industry. In 2013 ATA Arms took another huge step in their industry and changed from a limited company to an Incorporated Company.

ATA now manufactures world class shotguns and export all over the world. Both the aesthetics and the quality are second to none. Wild Hunter's Brian Connaughton asserts that is his opinion the ATA shotgun's is where quality and aesthetics meet.



Adjustable stock

The over and under series (SP) are enriched with quality



VISIT the **LAKELAND SHOOTING CENTRE**  
STAND at the **IRISH GAME & COUNTRY FAIR**  
BIRR CASTLE, 23 & 24 AUGUST

To see a super collection of TOP of the RANGE  
BLASERS, MAUSERS & ZEISS OPTICS



*Blaser*

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

Website: [www.lakelandshootingcentre.ie](http://www.lakelandshootingcentre.ie)



Turkish walnut wood for the stock and fore-ends making them extremely attractive to the eye. The barrels are built and finished to a high standard, with a very durable high gloss finish.

The semi-auto series (Neo) are made using inertia systems. This system comprises of only three primary parts: the bolt body, the inertia spring and the rotating bolt head. This system is incredibly simple to use and light in weight. The Neo series is available in both synthetic and timber finishes. They can recycle unbelievably low loads.

The ATA range is now available in a large number of gun shops across the UK and Ireland. If you visit Mourne shooting grounds, Knocknagoshel shooting range or Courtlough shooting grounds you will have the opportunity to test the ATA over and under demo shotguns.

The Wildhunter gunroom based in Unit 7, The Diskin Centre, Golden Island, Athlone stock a wide range of ATA Arms guns which can be viewed at your convenience.

Wildhunter will be sponsoring an ATA SP Black Sporter with adjustable stock.



*ATA Black Sporter*

The SP Sporter is perfect for both game and trap, it comes with an Adjustable Stock so it will fit all sizes of shooter.

The timber has been upgraded to a grade 2 Walnut. This timber has a matt oiled finish to both the stock and fore-end. This means you can re oil and easily maintain the timber work.

The Sporter has a steel action receiver, which gives it that extra bit of weight for high volume shooting.

The front sight of the 30 inch barrel is an LPA bead sight.

It is available with either a vented mid rib barrel or a solid mid rib. The ATA SP Sporter comes with 5 chokes as standard and an elegant suede gun case. The stock and fore-end come in a beautiful red velvet sleeve.



*Comes with a smart case*

Optional extras, such as extendable chokes etc can be purchased.

Comes with a full 2 year manufacturer's warranty.

## FANTASTIC MAIN ARENA PROGRAMME

Other events have tried to copy our successful game and

country fair format including running events at different locations in an apparent attempt to replicate our success. We were amused to see a claim that their main arena programmes 'were the envy of other event organisers'. Well we can assure them not these organisers! As our action packed main arena programme will be a very eloquent testimony to the fact that we have the best arena programmes at the GREAT GAME FAIRS of IRELAND – a great mix of living history, country side and country sports entertainment.

## Great Game Fairs of Ireland All Ireland Game Fair Gundogs

The largest and best sponsored Gundog events at any Fair in Ireland are staged at the two GREAT GAME FAIRS of IRELAND

### GUNDOGS

The Gundog events at Birr are sponsored by RED MILLS



PLEASE NOTE THAT ACCESS TO THE GUNDOG CAR PARK IS AT GATE A BETWEEN 8.00 - 9.00am. COMPETITORS ARRIVING AFTER 9.00 WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE MAIN CAR PARK.

## SPANIELS Saturday 23rd August

National Open & International Spaniel Tests (organised by the ESS of Ireland) Starts 9.00am.



**Saturday afternoon features a North/South International team test.**

**Prize Structure : International :**

**Winning team: RED MILLS dog food and €150**

### Open Test :

1st €80 plus tankard plus RED MILLS Dog Food. 2nd €60, 3rd €40, 4th €20.

### Novice Test:

1st €50 plus Tankard & RED MILLS Dog Food. 2nd €30, 3rd €20.

TOP SCORING SPANIEL OVERALL (Novice or Open) wins a Barbour Coat.



# BEYOND YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Sat 23rd- Sun 24th

Aug 2014

**Irish  
Game &  
Country  
Fair**

*Birr Castle, Birr*

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## RETRIEVERS on Sunday 24th August

National NOVICE Open and International team events. These events are organised by Derek Harford and the Broadmeadows Gundog Club.

### Prize Structure: International: Top Dog (overall)

**Winning team:** Win RED MILLS dog food and €150.

### National Novice Retriever Test:

1st €50, Tankard plus a bag of RED MILLS Food, 2nd €30, 3rd €20.

### National Open Retriever Test: Prizes

1st €80, Tankard a bag of RED MILLS Food, 2nd €60, 3rd €40, 4th €20.

### TOP SCORING RETRIEVER OVERALL

(from Novice or Open) a Barbour Coat



### THE HANDLING CHALLENGE

On Sunday afternoon the two top Spaniels meet the top two Retrievers in a challenge competition for the RED MILLS TOP GAME FAIR GUNDOG. The winner receives a £250 Voucher for Barbour Clothing from Smyths of Coleraine and a three night break for up to four people in a Landmark Trust Cottage - the best opposite breed a Duck Dri Coat.

## CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING



### 50 BIRD GAME FAIR OPEN SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIPS – TWO DAYS

1st Prize Saturday A BRIXIA SHOTGUN sponsored by Tom & Niall Kirwan, Lakeland Shooting Centre

1st Prize Sunday A ATA SHOTGUN sponsored by Brian

Connaughton Wildhunter, 2nd Prize €150.00 each day, 3rd Prize €100.00 each day.

Everyone who enters and returns a card will be entered into a draw on Sunday evening for a Caesar Guerini Automatic Shotgun sponsored by Francesco Morelli from Casale 200 Ltd, Cashel. OVERALL WINNER wins the PHILIP LAWTON PERPETUAL MEMORIAL TROPHY.

### THE RETURN OF THE GAME FAIR FLUSH

50 bird 2 man flush €100.00 prize each day.

### COCK AND HEN POOL TRAP

There is a draw for a SILMA Shotgun sponsored by Ardee Sports for anyone who enters on this stand over the 2 days.

Cash prizes for 1st 2nd and 3rd each day, Draw for a Sulmi shotgun on Sunday evening.

### EXTREME TARGET

Test your long range shooting skill against clays up to 100 yards, €100.00 top prize each day.

Over €600 worth of shooting accessories supplied by Millard Bros to be won plus many other spot prizes.

For further information contact Seamus Glennon 0872664191

## ANGLING

THE GREAT GAME FAIRS OF IRELAND host the largest outdoor displays of tackle in Ireland and the best casting competitions. That is why they host the All Ireland Game Fair Fly Casting Championships.

### Angling

The All Ireland Game Fair Casting Championships and much, much more...

The angling section of the Fair is sited in the picturesque setting of the beautiful lake and is being co-ordinated by World Ladies Casting Champion Glenda Powell, no mean caster and coach herself in association with APGAI Ireland.



*Glenda with a fine Blackwater Fish.*

Apart from an outstanding range of quality tackle stands we also are staging an additional Woodcock & Angling Pavilion which will of course feature major exhibits by FISSTA, The Federation of Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers and APPGAI Ireland plus displays of sporting art by John J Moore who painted the iconic that of 'Salmon on the Glendun River'



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 /TheGunstore.ie



John R Moore, is an iconic artist from Northern Ireland. Widely featured in leading countrysports magazines, his work ranges from impressive paintings such as the 'Salmon on the Glendun River,' via 'The Massereene Hound' and a very 'Regal Stag' to 'Woodcock in Snow.' John creates an uncanny likeness of his subject whatever the setting or subject. A self taught artist, John's background and being a keen naturalist from childhood have helped him have a rare understanding of the structure of animals and the nature of their habitats.

John will be exhibiting an eclectic selection of his work at Birr this year, demonstrating the wide range of his talent, from birds of prey, through song and game birds, to foxes, horses, dogs and fish.



*Salmon on the Glendun River by JR Moore.*

This painting together with limited edition prints of it have been donated to FISSTA to assist with their Youth programme.

The Directors of the Fair and the publishers of Irish Countrysports and Country Life, Ireland's premier country sports magazine, are delighted to have been able to give support to FISSTA's impressive youth development programme.

## COMPETITIONS

The competition classes run in association by APGAI Ireland will include: A Professional Class; A Class Open to all (except professionals); a Youth's Class and a Ladies Class.

**OUTDDOR & COUNTRY SPORTS** are delighted to be associated with the fair directors as the main prize sponsors for the casting competitions and invite you to visit their stand in Anglers Row for some very special tackle offers.

For the less expert angler there will be demonstrations including casting and fly tying and coaching from a wide range of experts including APGAI Ireland members who are coming to supervise the competitions and offer coaching.

Ireland's top qualified lady angler Glenda Powell will be providing casting instruction where children and ladies are particularly welcome.

## Classes

**Professional/Open Class:**

**Ladies Class:**

**Youth Class (Under 18):**

## INTERNATIONAL TAXIDERMIST INGRID HOUWERS AT BIRR

Ingrid Houwers has rapidly gained a well deserved reputation for producing taxidermy work of the very highest standard, as countless visitors to the Great Game Fairs of Ireland will know already. She recently won international recognition for her talent by gaining the official title of International Accredited Taxidermist at The Taxidermy Championships of the Netherlands.



*Egyptian plover - just one of the amazing works by Ingrid Houwers.*

Arguably the finest taxidermist in Ireland, Ingrid will have an intriguing display of her finest work at Birr and you can watch her performing her amazing work throughout the fair.

## TERRIERS, WHIPPETS & LURCHERS

The Great Game Fairs of Ireland are renowned for their Terrier, Lurcher & Whippet events through their hosting of the All Ireland Terrier & Lurcher Championships at Shanes Castle and the ROI Championships at Birr. Although our format has been copied it has never been bettered and this year we have already staged the Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine/Feedwell Master McGrath Challenge and at Birr we will stage the Irish Countrysports and Country Life/Red Mills Five Nations International Lurcher & Terrier Championships and the MOURNE DIGGING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

## The MASSBROOK ROI TERRIER, LURCHER & WHIPPET CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Irish Game & Country Fair, Birr Castle  
TERRIER, WHIPPET & LURCHER RACING  
CHAMPIONSHIPS SATURDAY 23rd August  
starting 12.30pm**

The Over 23" ROI Lurcher Racing Championships - winner qualifies for 2015 Master Mc Grath Challenge Winner €40 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland Plus Trophy & Bag of Massbrook Dog Food Runner Up & Bag of Massbrook Dog Food

The Under 23" ROI Racing Championships - winner qualifies for 2014 Master Mc Grath Challenge Winner €40 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland Plus Trophy & Bag of Massbrook Dog Food Runner Up Bag of Massbrook Dog Food.

The Under 21" ROI Racing Championships Winner €40 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland Plus Trophy & Bag of Massbrook Dog Food Runner Up Bag of Massbrook Dog Food.





The Whippet ROI Racing Championships Winner €40 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland Plus Trophy & Bag of Massbrook Dog Food Runner Up Bag of Massbrook Dog Food

The Terrier Racing Championships Winner €40 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland Plus Trophy & Bag of Massbrook Dog Food Runner Up All Runner Up Bag of Massbrook Dog Food.

### DIRECTORS CHALLENGE

This is restricted to dogs that have not won a race at any event in the UK or Ireland

There will be three sets of heats for dogs classified as follows:

Rough Coated Lurcher Any size Winner €20

Bull or Terrier /cross Lurcher Any size Winner €20

Smooth Coated Lurcher/Long dog any breeding other than (2) Any size. Winner €20

The top two dogs from each classification will run in a six dog final

Winner €40 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland plus Trophy & Bag of Massbrook Dog Food Runner Up Bag of Massbrook Dog Food.

### **Terrier, Lurcher & Whippet Show SUNDAY 24th September Starts 12.30 AFTER DIGGING COMPETITION**

**Rosettes sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland & Irish  
Countrysports and Country Life magazine  
Dog Food sponsored by Massbrook.**

The Whippet ROI Racing Championships Winner (Registration papers must be shown) €40 sponsored by Countryside Alliance Ireland Plus Trophy & Bag of Massbrook

Dog Food Runner Up Bag of Massbrook Dog Food..

OVERALL SHOW CHAMPION €50 + Trophy

CHAMPION LURCHER €40 sponsored by Premier Event Catering + Trophy + Dog Food. This is the final qualifier for the Red Mills & Irish Countrysports and Country Life Five Nations Lurcher Championship.

CHAMPION TERRIER €40 sponsored by Premier Event Catering + Trophy + Dog Food. This is the final qualifier for the Red Mills & Irish Countrysports and Country Life Five Nations Terrier Championship.

The FINAL of the IRISH COUNTRYSPOITS AND COUNTRY LIFE /RED MILLS FIVE NATIONS TERRIER CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGED BY A THREE JUDGE SYSTEM WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MAIN ARENA AT 5.00pm. WILL ALL QUALIFIERS

REGISTER WITH FAIR HQ BEFORE 12.00 noon.

The FINAL of the IRISH COUNTRYSPOITS AND COUNTRY LIFE /RED Mills FIVE NATIONS LURCHER CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGED BY A THREE JUDGE SYSTEM WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MAIN ARENA AT 5.30pm. WILL ALL QUALIFIERS REGISTER WITH FAIR HQ BEFORE 12.00 noon.

The Winners of the Five Nations Lurcher & Terrier Championship will receive a variety of prizes including €500; A Barbour Coat, a Trophy and other prizes. Runners Up receive €50.

CHAMPION WHIPPET €40 + Trophy+ Dog Food

PUPPY CHAMPION Trophy

CHAMPION PET Trophy

**Bag of Massbrook for all class winners –**

**Rosettes to fourth place**

**Terrier Championship Show :**

Terrier Pups under 1 year

Terrier under 12".

Best Pair of Terriers

AV Working Terrier

Jack Russell Type Dog over 1 year old

Jack Russell Type Bitch over 1 year old

Lakeland Type Dog over 1 year old

Lakeland Type Bitch over 1 year old

Fell or Patterdale Dog or Bitch over 1 year old

Border Dog over 1 year old

Border Bitch over 1 year old

Cross Bred Dog or Bitch over 1 year old

Veteran Dog or Bitch over 7 years of age.

**Championship – from unbeaten terriers other than pairs or puppy. Puppy goes forward to the puppy championships.**

**Lurcher Championships:**

Any Variety Lurcher Pup under 1 year old

Whippet/Lurcher Dog or Bitch over 1 year old( NO PURE BRED WHIPPETS)

Best Pair of Lurchers

Any Variety Lamping Lurcher Dog

Any Variety Lamping Lurcher Bitch

Smooth Lurcher Dog over 23" over 1 year old

Smooth Lurcher Bitch over 23" over 1 year old

Rough Lurcher Dog over 23" over 1 year old

Rough Lurcher Bitch over 23" over 1 year old

Rough or Smooth Lurcher Dog under 23" over 1 year old

Rough or Smooth Lurcher Bitch under 23" over 1 year old

Collie Lurcher over 1 year old

Terrier Bred Lurcher over 1 year old

Bull Bred lurcher over 1 year old.

Veteran Lurcher - Any Lurcher over 8 years of age

**Championship - from unbeaten Lurchers other than pairs or puppy. Puppy goes forward to the puppy championships.**

**Whippet Championship:**

Whippet Puppy Dog under 1 year old

Whippet Puppy Bitch under 1 year old

Whippet Dog over 1 year old



Whippet Bitch over 1 year old

Working Whippet Dog

Working Whippet Bitch

Whippet Veteran Dog or Bitch

Whippet Pairs

Championship 1st from classes 3,4,5,6

Family Dog Show:

Any Variety shown by a child under 12 years of age

Any Variety shown by a Lady

Any Variety shown by a Gent

Champion Handling Class from the above classes Receives Trophy & Rosette.

IT IS ALSO HOPED TO STAGE SPECIAL WHIPPET CHALLENGE RACE winner €50 and a bag of meal. Dogs will be handicapped on the basis of weight.

## ALL IRELAND DIGGING CHAMPIONSHIPS



*All Action Final in 2013.*

The Mourne All Ireland Digging Championships organised by Kieran Young will take place at 12.00 Sunday 24th August before the Terrie , Lurcher & Whippet Show.

Prizes include €100 and two tankards donated by Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine, and other prizes from Belman & Flint; Bulldog spades. All competitors receive a special commemorative cap sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life and Wildebeeste

STOP PRESS: From MARWALSH quality dog products comes the superb prize of two couples with collars each for the winning and runner up team in the Mourne Digging Championships. Marwalsh will be exhibiting their quality products in the Terrier & lurcher area both days.

**This is a real fun event PLUS a real test of skill and strength and it will be some feat to be crowned MOURNE ALL IRELAND DIGGING CHAMPIONS**

## THE COUNTRY LOVER'S SHOW

If you are interested in countrysports or simply love an action packed day in the Irish countryside this is the event for you.

From the attractions of the estate including the largest tree house in Ireland to the best of international competitions and the best main arena programme at any country show in Ireland.



**The fair is open to the public from 10.00 – 6.00pm each day and admission costs just €35 for a family (2 Adults and up to 4 children);**

**€15 for an adult and €5 for a child between 5 and 15.**

**Programme & Car parking FREE**

The fair is supported by





## **FEEDWELL/Irish Countrysports & Country Life magazine All Ireland Champion of Champions Terrier, Lurcher & Whippet Challenges**

**Ballynahinch Harvest & Country Living Festival, Montalto Estate , Saturday 27th September 10.00 start**

**Please note there will be no racing and entry to the championships is restricted to dogs qualified as below AND MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF THE SHOW.**

Any Dog that has been Champion Terrier, Lurcher or Whippet or Champion Puppy at any Show in Ireland qualifies:

ICS&CL Champion Lurcher £150                      ICS&CL Champion Terrier £150

ICS&CL Champion Whippet £150                      ICS&CL Champion Puppy £150

Overall Champion £50 and a watch sponsored by Gardiner Brothers, Belfast

Other prizes of dog food will be presented.

### **ALL IRELAND CHAMPION of CHAMPIONS TERRIER, WHIPPET and LURCHER CHALLENGES**

Owners Name:	Address:	Telephone No:
Dog's Name:	Where Qualified:	Competition Entered For:

Please complete and return form together with Entry fee of £10 payable in advance to Mournie Terrier & Lurcher Club: K Young 21 Oldtown Lane. Longstone. Annalong. Newry County Down. BT34 4XF Tel: 07834064086 Each entry receives two admission tickets value £30

## **RED MILLS/Irish Countrysports & Country Life magazine All Ireland Gundog Test Handling Challenge.**

**Ballynahinch Harvest & Country Living Festival, Montalto Estate,  
Saturday 27th September 10.00 am start.**

**Please note entry to the championships are restricted to dogs qualified as below AND MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF THE SHOW.**

### **Novice Dog handler:**

Any dog that has been placed 1st to 3rd in a Novice or Unclassified/Prelim Tests anywhere in Ireland.

1st Prize £200 plus Watch sponsored by Gardiner Brothers, Belfast; 2nd Duck Dri Coat

### **Open Dog handler:**

Any Dog that has been placed 1st to 3rd in an Open test in Ireland qualifies.

1st Prize £200 plus Watch sponsored by Gardiner Brothers, Belfast; 2nd Duck dri Coat

Other prizes of dog food will be presented

### **IRISH GUNDOG HANDLING CHAMPIONSHIP MONTALTO ESTATE Saturday 27th September**

Owners Name:	Address:	Telephone No:
Dog's Name:	Where Qualified:	Competition Entered For:

Please complete and return form together with Entry fee of £10 payable in advance to Mid Ulster Gundog Association, c/o Joe Johnston, 43 Ballynargan Road, Stewartstown, Co Tyrone, BT 71 5NF Tel : 028 86736432. Each entry receives two admission tickets value £30



# The Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Festival - a unique 'Country Comes to Town' event launched in County Down

*Details of a unique new event on the country calendar, which has been over a year in the planning, were revealed in Ballynahinch last week in the beautiful Montalto Estate.*



Quite uniquely the festival has a twin locus focus, with events being staged both at the estate on Saturday and Sunday the 27th & 28th September and also on the Saturday in Ballynahinch town centre. For the first time in decades, the stunning grounds of Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch will open to the public in grand style at the new, two-day Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Festival, taking place on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September 2014. While on the Saturday, Ballynahinch Town will play host to a unique country and history come to town with a re-enactment of the Battle of Ballynahinch and the creation of a day of country themed celebrations reminiscent of the Harvest, and Pig and Potato Fairs for which the town was rightly famed.

The house at Montalto, originally built in the 1700s by Lord

Rawdon, Earl of Moira, has a rich history, encompassing The Battle of Ballynahinch when, in June 1798, the United Irishmen fought government forces on Ednavaddy Hill. Today, the house sits on an estate of 400 acres and is a beautiful venue for private parties and weddings see [www.montaltoestate.com](http://www.montaltoestate.com). For many years, the house and estate has been closed to the public but now, for two days only, the gates will open exclusively for the Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Festival.

The Festival at Montalto, organised by Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd of 'Great Game Fairs of Ireland' fame and supported by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Down District Council, looks set to be one of the most stylish and distinctive country events on the local calendar.

Expect to see all that is best in game fairs and country shows





*Ingrid Houwers takes on the role of heroine of the battle, Betsy Gray whose story is recounted in the book 'Betsy Gray or Hearts of Down'.*





*Down Council Chairman Councillor Billy Walker 'takes the reins' with Directors Albert & Irene Titterington and Edwin Dash to launch the Festival at Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch.*

set alongside the better things in life that the countryside can offer. This marriage of game fair elements with fine country style and living history should succeed in bringing the Game Fair's regular visitors and patrons together with an upmarket, discerning audience of those who live, work and play in the countryside and those who aspire to embrace the country life – at least for a day or two!

The Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Festival at Montalto Estate will bring a packed programme of entertainment:

- A Main Arena entertainment programme sponsored by JN WINES from Crossgar ([www.jnwine.com](http://www.jnwine.com)) features many facets of the game fairs, including gundog, horse and hounds, horse drawn vehicles, fly casting and falconry displays and demonstrations, living history re-enactments, a Medieval jousting tournament, TV shepherdess Katy Cropper and much, much more.

- A full Game Fair programme including international clay shooting, gundog tests, angling, terrier, whippet and lurcher championships and a range of demonstrations and displays. Expect to see attractive prize funds and stiff competition!

- A country focused retail exhibition village with space limited to 100 trade partners focusing on all that is finest in country living including a country fashion show.

- A Fine Food Festival bringing together select artisan food and drink producers and suppliers from all over Ireland and the UK including a superb opportunity to try the fine range of wines available from JN WINES of Crossgar.

- Living history re-enactments celebrating the famous Battle

of Ballynahinch with skirmishes both in the town, the event's main arena and around the fair, complete with a Living History Village where visitors can interact with combatants and even the legendary Betsy Gray – famed as one of the heroines of the battle in the book 'Betsy Gray or Hearts of Down'.

- A Medieval theme including a Jousting Tournament, John de Courcy coins minted on site and a Medieval Buffet in the baronial themed hall complete with costumed servers, falconer and harpist playing Medieval music.

- A theme celebrating harvest and the country way of life with music, arts and crafts displays, a horse drawn vehicle cavalcade and an exclusive country fashion show – offering catwalk space to select exhibitors.

- And of course, suitable entertainments for children, including competitions.

The organisers of the Festival confidently predict 15,000 plus visitors will attend and, based on attendances at their other events – the Game Fairs at Shanes Castle in Antrim and Birr Castle in Offaly, where attendance regularly reaches 25,000 to 30,000 visitors, it is fair to say that this team can deliver on its promises.

As Director Albert Titterington stated 'Attractions have been booked and of course many of our exhibitors from our Game Fairs have already booked exhibition stands but some stands are still available for quality products relevant to the country lifestyle.

This includes country fashion, fine food and drinks, cars and 4x4s, country crafts etc.

The Festival in the estate will run from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm



# Three great wines to enjoy this summer

from  
**James Nicholson Wine Merchant**



Nothing says summer quite like a delicious glass of chilled rosé. Our favourite comes from the stunning **Château Léoube** estate in Provence. This is a delicately coloured **rosé**, light and dry but perfect with summer salads or on its own after a long day in the garden.

*£16.50 per bottle*



If you are looking for a fine summer red, we would urge you to seek out some of the juicy red wines now coming out of Portugal. We love the **Alento** red – sweet, pure and quite lush on the nose, the palate is juicy, pure and vibrant with sweet bramble and berry fruit. This perfect accompaniment to barbecued meats. *£9.99 per bottle*



A glass of bubbly always goes down well in the summer months too. For a change from Champagne and Prosecco why not try our **Sartarelli sparkling verdicchio** from Italy. Crisp, dry and elegant with notes of almond blossom, citrus and apricot, this unique bottle of bubbles is sure to delight.

*£15.00 per bottle*

As the French would say “un repas sans vin est comme un jour sans soleil” (a meal without wine is like a day without sunshine)... and we could all do with a little more sunshine in our lives!

*Why not visit our shop in Crossgar, Co Down...  
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*Medieval banqueting and fine food village are two key attractions.*

each day. Admission charges are £30 for two adults or family (two adults and up to four children). Car parking and programme free and see the Autumn edition of Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine (in the shops 8th September for an exclusive £10 discount voucher).

The day long Town Festival starting at 10.00 with a horse drawn vehicle cavalcade to Montalto , followed by a battle re-enactment and an eclectic mix of family entertainment including a U105 Roadshow, country market, music, and family entertainment finishes at 5.00 pm . It is not only FREE of

Charge but you might pick up some shopping vouchers and admission vouchers for the Montalto event. For visitors staying over in the area for the weekend there will be special entertainment in pubs and restaurants.

For further details of the event see [www.ballynahinchharvestfestival.com](http://www.ballynahinchharvestfestival.com) or view the short promotional video. Also listen to the U105 Outside Broadcast on Friday 26th September from 9 – 12.00. For details of how to exhibit at the event call Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd on 02844839167 or 44615416 E: [irishgamefair@btinternet.com](mailto:irishgamefair@btinternet.com)



*Down Council Vice Chairman Councillor Des Patterson and Councillors Walter Lyons, Patsy Toman and Anne McAleenan look forward to the re-enactment of the Battle of Ballynahinch in the town square.*



# The Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Festival - *a unique 'Country Comes to Town' event*



**COUNTRY: Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th September 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch, Co Down**

The Festival at Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch, Co Down is being organised by the Great Game Fairs of Ireland team and combines all of the attractions of the game fairs with facets of fine country living.

- The Main Arena entertainment programme sponsored by JN WINES from Crossgar ([www.jnwine.com](http://www.jnwine.com)) features many aspects of the game fairs, including gundog, horse and hounds, horse drawn vehicles, fly casting and falconry displays and demonstrations, living history re-enactments, a Medieval jousting tournament, TV shepherdess Katy Cropper and much, much more.
- A full Game Fair programme of competitions including international clay shooting, gundog tests, angling, terrier, whippet and lurcher championships.
- A country focused retail exhibition village focusing on all that is finest in country sports and country living including a country fashion show.
- A Fine Food Festival bringing together select artisan food and drink producers and suppliers from all over Ireland and the UK.
- Living history re-enactments celebrating the famous Battle



of Ballynahinch, complete with a Living History Village where visitors can interact with combatants

- A Medieval theme including a Jousting Tournament, John de Courcy coins minted on site and a Medieval Buffet in the baronial themed hall complete with costumed servers, falconer and harpist playing Medieval music.
- A theme celebrating harvest and the county way of life with music, arts and crafts displays, a horse drawn vehicle cavalcade and an exclusive country fashion show
- And of course, suitable entertainments for children, including competitions.

**TOWN: Saturday 27th September 10.00 am - 5.00pm Ballynahinch Town**

The Town Festival starts at 10.00 am with a horse drawn vehicle cavalcade to Montalto, followed by a battle re-enactment and an eclectic mix of family entertainment including a U105 Roadshow, country market, music, and family entertainment and runs all day finishing at 5.00 pm. It is not only FREE of Charge but you might pick up some shopping vouchers for the wide range of shops in the town and admission vouchers for the Montalto event.

For visitors staying over in the area for the weekend there will be special evening entertainment in pubs and restaurants. For further details of the event see [www.ballynahinchharvestfestival.com](http://www.ballynahinchharvestfestival.com) or view the short promotional video [www.vimeo.com/96788960](http://www.vimeo.com/96788960). Also listen to the U105 Outside Broadcast on Friday 26th September from 9 – 12.00. For



details of how to exhibit at the event call Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd on 02844839167 or 44615416 E: [irishgamefair@btinternet.com](mailto:irishgamefair@btinternet.com)

The event is supported by



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Breda Meccanica Bresciana focused on the production of civilian and sporting shotguns and immediately faced strong and positive feedback. Their long tradition and deep know how on manufacturing semi-autos comprised with constant research of the best raw materials and continuous investment in R&D drove Breda to develop several ranges of these guns.

We are proud to bring a selection of these Italian shotguns to the market.

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