



Programme of Festival Events

FRIDAY JUNE 2ND - MONDAY JUNE 5TH

Celbridge, Co. Kildare

2nd
JUNE

Vanessa and Swift: A (complicated !!) love story

A talk by Dr. Brendan Twomey & Harpist Mary Keenan

Venue: Slip Hall, The Slip, Celbridge

Time: 7.30 - 9pm - Free Entry

This talk will explore the fifteen-year long, and in the end tragic, love story much of which took place on the banks of the Liffey in Celbridge Abbey. It will be interspersed with beautiful pieces by Mary Keenan. Register by email to info@swiftandvanessa.com

3rd
JUNE

Children's Storytime

Children's Swift & Vanessa Storytime

Venue: Tea Lane Church, Church Street, Celbridge

Time: 11am - 12:30pm - Free entry

This event for children ages 7-10 will bring to life the story of Swift and Vanessa in Celbridge Abbey and also extracts from Swift's wonderful fairytale Gulliver's Travels. From 11am - 12:30pm at Tea Lane. Limited number of places. Register by emailing info@swiftandvanessa.com

2-5
JUNE

Tours of Kildrought House

Tour times: Tours will be held at 11:00 each day from Friday 2nd – Monday 5th June

Fee: 3 euro

The tours last for approximately 1.5 hours and will show the beautiful interior and gardens of this historic building and will hear its wonderful stories. The maximum number of people for each tour is 12. To book phone: 087 616 8651 or 01 627 1206 from the 20th May.

2nd
JUNE

Swift's Secrets Play *by Straffan Drama Club*

Venue: Kildrought Gardens, Main Street Celbridge

Time: 2 - 4pm - Free Entry

Swift's Secrets, written and directed by Geraldine O'Brien, will be performed by Straffan Drama Club on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023 at various times between 2-4pm. It takes place outdoors, is 30 minutes in duration, and requires walking on uneven ground. **Booking is essential, text 0872618118.**

3rd
JUNE

Readings: 'A Mighty Pain to Love It Is'

Venue, Tea Lane Church, Church Lane, Celbridge

Time: 4 - 6pm - Free Entry

Dramatised readings of the Correspondence of Jonathan Swift and Esther van Homrigh of Celbridge 1710-1723 by Seamus Cummins. Read by actors Bob Tysall and Camilla With.

3rd
JUNE

Celtic Tenors with Deirdre Masterson Supported by Mary Conroy

Venue: Christchurch, Castletown Gates, Celbridge

Time: Saturday, 8pm - Entry: 10 euro

Enjoy a musical evening to celebrate the love story of Swift and Vanessa with the Celtic Tenors & Deirdre Masterson, supported by Mary Conroy. **Contact Bridie O'Connor at 087 795 2271**

4th
JUNE

Family Fun Day!

Venue: The Slip, Celbridge

Time: Sunday, 2 - 6pm - Free Entry

Come along to the Slip for a fun day of family activities, including Checkers - one of Ireland's top social dancing bands. Performances also by the RAMS in Rhythm Men's Shed band, dancing, face-painting and circus performers.

4&5
JUNE

'Swift and Vanessa' Play

Venue: Tea Lane, Celbridge

Time: First showing - June 4th Sunday at 8pm | Second showing: Monday 2 - 3 pm

Entry: Adults 10 euro or donation (for low/unwaged). Tickets via Eventbrite

In 1710, Jonathan Swift met Esther VanHomrigh (Vanessa) in London. She became besotted with him. But what he failed to mention was that he had another Esther – Esther Jonson – in his life. Let us transport you back to the London of 1710, when the smartest man in the city met the strong-willed Vanessa. It was a meeting he was never allowed to forget and a story you won't.