

# New features at King House



A visitor using an audio guide in the new 'Creation of a nation' exhibition at King House.

Over the past number of months, the staff at King House has been extremely busy developing new ideas and products that will further enhance the visitor experience.

New audio guides have been introduced that visitors can take on their tour of this wonderful mansion. The audio tours were developed to give greater accessibility for visually impaired visitors; however they have also greatly enhanced the tour experience for visitors of all abilities.

The tour commentary and hardware was supplied by ATS Heritage from the UK, which counts Balmoral Castle and Blenheim Palace among their many clients! A number of state-of-the-art audio companions have been purchased and the tour, complete with special effects and music, was launched recently following months of script writing and exhibition adjustments.

In addition to these fantastic audio guides, two new permanent exhibitions have also been developed at King House. 'Creation of a Nation' tells the story of the dramatic events in the struggle for an Independent Ireland. Some of the events include the 1916 Easter Rising, 1918 General Election, War of Independence and Civil War. This new exhibition puts local events from the time into a national context. For those that are interested in local Irish history, this is a fantastic opportunity to discover more about events like the Rockingham Raid and the Battle for Boyle.

Our 'Queen of the Silver Screen' exhibition follows the wonderful journey of one of Boyle's most famous people, Maureen O'Sullivan who was born in 1911. Discover her rise to Hollywood fame including her role as Jane Parker in the Tarzan films, which ensured her place as a legend of the silver screen! Of course she has an important connection to King House as well so why not come and find out what it is!

King House is open seven days a week until the end of September and with more than 20 rooms to explore, from the attic to the basement, it's definitely worth taking the grand tour today! To find out more about what to see and do at King House why not log on to our website [www.kinghouse.ie](http://www.kinghouse.ie)



## arts news

■ With Pauline Scott

### Public art project for Rooskey

Arising from building works in the area, Roscommon County Council has the opportunity to commission an artist to make new work in the context of Rooskey. The Arts Office is joining up with Suaimhneas Choral Singers and Riverside Chorus to commission a composer / playwright team to develop a new piece of choral theatre for Rooskey. There will be an information meeting for all residents of Rooskey on 15th July in the Old School. All are welcome. For more information phone Avril Carr, Arts Education and Development Co-ordinator, Roscommon County Arts Office. Telephone (090) 66 32541 or email [acarr@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:acarr@roscommoncoco.ie)

### Photo exhibition in Athlone

Feast your eyes on a selection of wonderful images by amateur and professional photographers from the midlands when Midlands Photography Club hosts its first exhibition in Athlone this week.

The exhibition which will showcase the work of members from Midlands Photography Club will take place in Athlone Towncentre from Thursday, July 9th this week through to Sunday, July 12th.

The photography club, which draws members from across the south Roscommon and Westmeath area and beyond, is delighted to host its first exhibition after what has been a hugely successful year for the new club. Meetings take place in the Prince of Wales Hotel Athlone at 7.30 pm every Wednesday fortnight. Visit [www.midlandsphotographyclub.com](http://www.midlandsphotographyclub.com) or email [midlandsphotography@gmail.com](mailto:midlandsphotography@gmail.com) for details.

### Beeznee return with a comedy classic

Hugely popular Beeznee Theatre Company will perform their new production A Wake in the West in Roscommon Arts Centre on Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd July. Since forming over a decade ago, Leitrim-based Beeznee have gone from strength to strength. The group has since become one of the most popular touring companies in Ireland and Beeznee productions play to full houses in theatres nationwide. The company generally tours three plays every two years and Beeznee are regular visitors to Roscommon Arts Centre. This July they return with the hilarious 3-act A Wake in the West, which the group themselves have described as the funniest comedy they have ever worked on. With just days to go before the performances, reserve your tickets now through Roscommon Arts Centre (090) 66 25824.

### Celebrating Percy French

As a feature of The Inaugural Percy French Summer School a night of his famous music will be performed in Roscommon Arts Centre on Tuesday 21st July, featuring Mr Courtney Kenny, great nephew of Percy French. Entitled 'A Boy for Life' this show will include over 20 of some of the most famous and recognised songs of this popular and versatile entertainer. Courtney Kenny has had along and established career including stints in musical theatre, opera, cabaret and as a conductor. He has toured Ireland on several occasions and has performed in the National Concert Hall, The Wexford Festival, The Belfast Festival and on The Late Late Show. This will be the perfect opportunity for Percy French enthusiasts and those interested in Irish musical heritage to enjoy the music of one of our most renowned performers. Tickets for this event can be purchased at Roscommon Arts Centre (090) 66 25824.

### Cyril McDermott CD launch

A launch of Cyril McDermott's CD will take place in Dickie and Una Beirne's Lounge in Eastersnow, Croghan, on Saturday, 11th July at 10 pm. Entertainment on the night will be provided by John Carty, Harry Bradley and a host of musicians, singers, with jokes by Pat Kenny and the launch performed by Una Beirne. Everyone welcome.

## American songwriter is special guest at Glinsk Song Contest

American singer songwriter Jeff Tuttle flies into Ireland this weekend to star as special guest at Glinsk Song Contest this Sunday night.

Of the thirteen finalists who will be taking the stage, many will be visiting Glinsk for the very first time. Others like Jody Gallagher from Donegal, have been there before and have already tasted success at the Glinsk contest.

Cavan-born Gerry Henderson will be appearing in the Glinsk final for the third time so he is hoping that it can be 'third time lucky' with the very personal song

that was inspired by his young grandson. From Dublin comes Iris Wade who is a veteran of numerous music contests including the BBC's 'Star of the Night'. Castlereagh native, Dene Lane will be competing in the final for the second time.

A special treat in store for all patrons of the Glinsk Contest will be special guest, American singer songwriter, Jeff Tuttle who will make the visit to Glinsk with the sponsorship of Glenamaddy Credit Union.

Jeff, a country music entertainer and also a country music fan with a deep

respect for country music! Born and raised in Monroe Michigan, Jeff began singing country music in the Detroit area in 1990. He recently released his first 12 song CD 'Livin' Like A Millionaire (ain't got a dime)' which was recorded in Nashville. Jeff has had the honour and pleasure to share the stage with some of the biggest names in country music such as Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, George Jones and Tammy Wynette. He was the host of 'Country Today,' a country music TV show for three years.

# New novel explores dodgy property dealings

A newly published novel by Irish travel writer John Mulligan who hails from outside Boyle, is set to cause more controversy, if that is possible, in property circles. John is a former industry insider, and his account of dodgy dealings in Spain and Bulgaria may prove a little too close to the bone for some of the people who worked in the foreign property business at the height of the boom.

'No Place in the Sun' is a novel centred on an unscrupulous property salesman who sells dodgy apartments in Bulgaria to naïve Irish buyers, in a story that

closely parallels the real-life rush to buy foreign property in often poorly-chosen locations.

The central character in the novel is Tom Murphy, a dodgy salesman whose mantra is "buyer beware!" – it's our job to sell, theirs to be careful." In order to sell questionable apartments in the mountains of Bulgaria, he more than doubles the price and then sells them as having the benefit of "guaranteed rents" that will pay the mortgages. Could this also have happened in real life, or is it just an entertaining piece of fiction?

Thousands of Irish buyers may

yet have to find out the real truth about their own particular place in the sun. John has previously written a book titled 'In the Footsteps of the Four Flannerys' which tells of the journey of the Flannery brothers from near and their adventures as they ended up in New Zealand in the 1850s'.

'No Place in the Sun' is available in all good bookshops from this week. John will be doing a signing of his latest book on Thursday July 30th at 5 pm in McDonagh's Newsagents in Boyle, during Boyle Arts Festival week.

