



Press Book

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THE IRISH TIMES

Aldborough House, Dublin 1



Why is it significant?

Aldborough House is the second-biggest Georgian private residence in Dublin, surpassed in size only by Leinster House. Built in the late 18th century on Portland Row, Dublin 1, it has a tall, three-storey central block flanked by quadrants which led to pavilions – one with a chapel and the other with a private theatre.

Its first owner Edward Augustus Stratford, the second Earl of Aldborough, died within three years of its completion and left the property to his widow, Lady Aldborough who remarried but died 18 months after her first husband. Following a decade of legal wranglings, Lord Aldborough's nephew, Colonel John Wingfield, took possession of the house and sold the contents.

Aldborough House had various uses: it was a school run by former Cistercian monk, Prof Gregor von Feinaigle; an army barracks; and, when in public ownership, a depot for the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. More recently, it was owned by Telecom Éireann and the Irish Music Rights Organisation which had planned to locate its headquarters in the building but couldn't meet the restoration costs.

It was sold in 2005 for €4.5 million to a company called Aldborough Developments which got planning permission in 2006 to convert it to a private hospital.

This development never went ahead and the property is still owned by a north Dublin businessman, Philip Marley, whose companies Ely Property Group and Ely Properties are under liquidation.

What state of dereliction is it in?

Aldborough House is in very poor repair. Its main chimney pieces were removed at the end of the 19th century. The garden statuary was sold. In the 1940s the garden was used by Dublin Corporation for social housing. Rooms were altered to accommodate office space but it is only in the past decade that it has been seriously neglected. One of the pavilions has also been destroyed.

What repairs have been carried out?

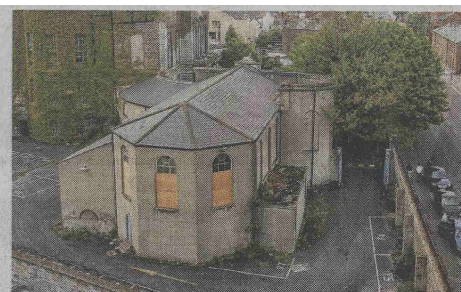
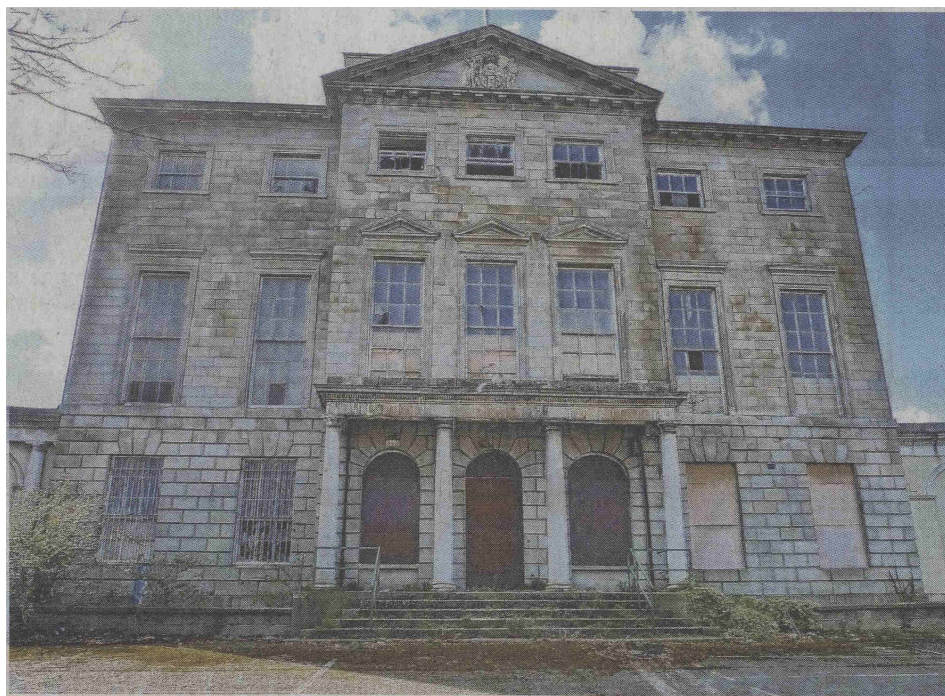
Dublin City Council (DCC) served enforcement proceedings against the current owners to carry out repairs to the roof. This didn't happen and the lead was stolen from the valley and parapet gutters, leading to terrible water damage. In December 2011, DCC authorised emergency roof repairs to weatherproof the building.

Who is championing its cause?

The Irish Georgian Society and An Taisce have campaigned for its restoration – or at least prevention from dereliction.

“ It has great potential as a focus building for community arts with an exhibition space, theatre and offices

THE IRISH TIMES



■ Aldborough House, Dublin was sold in 2005 for €4.5 million to a company which is now under liquidation.

PHOTOGRAPH: MATT KAVANAGH AND MARTINA GALVIN

"In spite of the recent measures taken by DCC to protect the roof and perimeter security, Aldborough House is facing ongoing deterioration," says Ian Lumley of An Taisce. The Five Lamps Arts Festival has also formed a group of people concerned with the fate of the building. "It has great potential as a focus building for community arts with an exhibition space, theatre and offices. Different students of architecture and interior design have already re-imagined it as a costume museum among other

things. We've lots of ideas but no funds," says Roisin Loneragan, artistic director of the Five Lamps Arts Festival.

"There are no shortage of uses. What's required is that the building is acquired by a suitable charitable trust. The Bank of Ireland [which holds the deeds], Dublin City Council and community organisations need to come together to find a solution," says Lumley.

What happens next?

It's difficult to say. Will liquidators for

businesses owned by Philip Marley sell it on? Will Dublin City Council buy it and seek ideas for its future use?

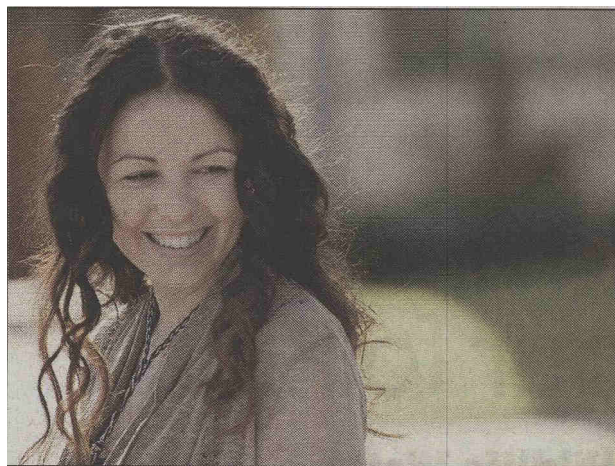
Or will it fall into further dereliction with neither buyer nor benefactor to restore it?

If you know of an important building that has fallen into disrepair email buildingsatrisk@irishtimes.com

SYLVIA THOMPSON



The Southern Star



Debut album from Nicole

Nicole Maguire is a young lady from Cork making major waves on the international music scene. Counting Damien Dempsey and Nanci Griffith as friends and mentors she has grown from a shy 15-year-old performing at local venues to a mesmerising, accomplished performer, whether fronting a band or performing solo with acoustic guitar, most recently opening for Jake Clemons (of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band) on his Irish tour.

She will release her debut album *What You Really Mean* on March 28th. Recorded in Nashville with Grammy-nominated producer Mitchell Froom (Pearl Jam, Randy Newman, Ron Sexsmith – to name a few), this is a fine collection of songs.

Damien Dempsey was so impressed he introduced his IRL record label bosses David Jaymes and Tom Haxell to Nicole's music – they agreed to release the album. 'Hard Love', the first single, was released on March 7th and Nicole will be launching *What You Really Mean* in Ireland, on March 28th, with a very special gig in Coughlan's of Douglas Street in Cork (recently voted **IMRO** live music venue of the year). www.nicolemaguire.ie



what'sON

ELECTRIC PICNIC LINE-UP: LAST

Wednesday saw the announcement of this year's exciting line-up for the Electric Picnic festival in Stradbally and the great and good of Dublin music lovers and festival supporters gathered at the art gallery and installation space, The Chocolate Factory, to celebrate the prospect of another memorable long weekend in Laois. With the best kept secrets in music finally announced, that this year's headliners will be Beck, Portishead and the reforming Outkast, with performances from perennial favourites Pet Shop Boys, Simple Minds and Nile Rodgers as well as young guns Foals, St Vincent and Metronomy, there is certainly something for everyone as the festival capitalises on its tenth anniversary year being named as the best festival in Ireland at the **IMRO** Music Awards. Tickets are on sale now from ticketmaster.ie, and special deals are in place for experienced Picnicers, who receive a sizeable discount depending on the number of previous festivals they have attended. electricpicnic.ie



Huge potential in music tourism - Noonan

Following a successful Tradfest, festival chairman Cllr Malcolm Noonan is calling for a more strategic approach to positioning the city as the music capital of Ireland.

"Tradfest and St Patrick's Day weekend is the kickstart of the festival calendar in Kilkenny. We were overwhelmed with the feedback from both the parade and the music programme for Tradfest and hope to build on the quality of the festival for next year" said Cllr Noonan.

"Many visitors look at a festival like this and book two or three bed nights," he said emphasising the spin off such festivals have on the local economy.

"Similarly with the Roots Festival we have visitors who come back time and time again. These are the big spenders in the local economy. I think we should consider the cumulative impact of these festivals, the potential for future concerts in Nowlan Park, the diversity of venue sizes from Cilin Hill right down to the Watergate and Cleere's Theatre and promote the city as a music mecca.

"We also have a diverse music programme in Kilkenny Arts Festival, Kilkenny Music Festival, Kilkenny Musical So-

ciety and the best of local talent in Rockfall. Visitors and locals mix in a safe environment and in a compact city that is ideally placed to become Ireland's music capital" he said.

Cllr Noonan cited collaboration between UK Tourism and UK Music in promoting music tourism overseas. They estimate that tourists going to concerts and festivals is worth over 2.2 billion pounds to the UK economy. He maintains that a similar approach could be taken by Failte Ireland, Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO) and music promoters.

"Kilkenny could lead the way by merging supports of existing festivals, sharing infrastructure and creative talent and be supported by Kilkenny Tourism and the new economic unit of Kilkenny County Council.

"Tradfest has great potential and if it's to move to the next level it will need a strategic approach. Kilkenny has come a long way and won many accolades over recent years, Ireland's music capital could well be our next destination," concluded the Tradfest Chairman.



IMRO SHOWCASE – FULLSET AND DONAL McCAGUE

Temple Bar Trad Fest, Friday January 24th, 2014. Derek Copley reports.



It may have been a bit of playful planning on the part of IMRO, or perhaps the hosts of the IMRO Showcase as part of the Temple Bar TradFest 2014 just wished to cover as broad a spectrum of traditional talent as possible in such a short space.

As part of the Showcase, two acts get a 30 minute slot each to display their particular talents and virtues in the world of traditional music, to a captive audience in the microscopic New Theatre, slotted at the back of Connolly's Books on Eccles St. On this occasion, the two acts were one solo, Donal McCague and one sextet, Fullset. And two different representations of the music one could not get! From Donal's soft spoken and genteel lilting of the bow, much in the vein of Tommy People's, to the high octane furore of Fullset, the audience certainly received a variety pack of goodies for this Showcase.

Donal's gentle Monaghan twang calmly opened the evening, thanking Clare Egan, of IMRO and also the audience, before setting off into his set, consisting of tunes old and new. He began

Up next was Fullset, a group who's orchestrator, fiddler Michael Harrison, had absolutely no problems speaking to the audience. They began their set, launching straight into a march, the minor tones rising in anticipation of a carefully layered build-up into what became, indeed, a full set of high octane traditional performance. The layering, as it is with many big groups, is key to the sound of Fullset, and they do it so well, rising on key and sustaining the energy of the music, particularly in the polkas set.

It was for this set that Michael instructed the crowd, in much the manner of a children's TV entertainer, to give a great big yelp when the tunes changed. Buoyed by the energy of the music, the audience succumbed and did 'yelp!' on key. Their sound, rounded over the course of several years and two albums, *Notes At Liberty* and *Notes After Dark*, is a testament also to the musicianship of Michael Harrison, Janine Redmond, Andy Meeney, Eamonn Moloney, Teresa Horgan and Marco Vacca.

“As part of the Showcase, two acts get a 30 minute slot each to display their particular talents and virtues in the world of traditional music, to a captive audience in the microscopic New Theatre”

with a march, *The Waylaid Man*, written by his brother Michael. Donal advised that, in fact, the tune was actually named by fiddler Danny Meehan, after brothers Donal and Michael had played it in a session with Danny.

“Michael was saying how he didn't know what to call it, when Danny came up with *the Waylaid Man*. We asked him why and he said: ‘Well, ya see, in the middle of it, it kind of gets a bit waylaid, so...’”

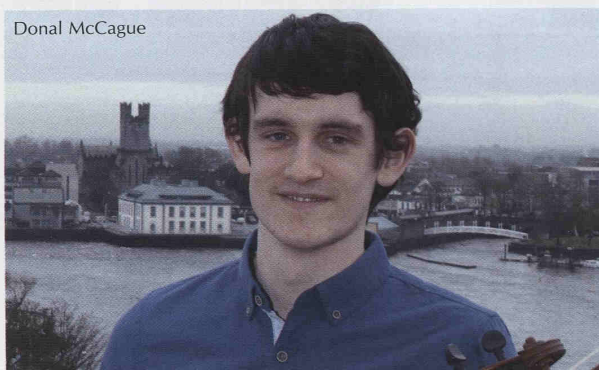
Although undoubtedly a little nervous, Donal's general calm nature took over in his playing, as he continued on with more tunes written by Michael, one, the Johnson Reel in dedication to Tommy Peoples, and the other Gradam Reel for Donal, who was this year's recipient of Young Traditional Musician of the Year award.

His award-winning playing, with short bowing and exemplary use of grace notes, was amplified on the *Lament for Irish Pipes*, discovered by Téada's Sean McElwain, in a project on which Donal is working, unearthing songs and stories from the Slieve Beigh mountain areas from near to Donal's home.

His extremely likeable character shone through, even though he seemed he might have been slightly out of his comfort zone having to speak between tunes... and putting up with an incredibly loud chair: ‘I apologise for the squeaking chair!’ he joked.

Their song choices are to be commended too, with *Ned of the Hill* given a fine arrangement, and also Stephen Foster's *Hard Times*. Some lovely singing on *The Bonny House of Airlie* did seem to be overwhelmed, however, by too early a build-up in the melody, which peaked too early. A minor glitch, however, in an otherwise polished performance from a group firmly set on their ideas and sound, as was the case with Donal McCague and his infectious fiddling earlier in the short evening of IMRO's Showcase series.

Donal McCague





Evening Echo

No shortage of free, fab music for fans throughout Cork this Paddy's Weekend

THE hard months after Christmas have finally passed. Hopefully we've all cleared the credit card bills and can enjoy the first bank holiday of the year but, with our wallets in mind **RONAN LEONARD** has compiled a list of free live music events in the city this weekend. Perhaps you'll want to check out some of the bands and maybe some of the pubs you haven't been into in a while!

Tonight

Let's start the festivities with a bit of classy swing and soul, well-cut suits and great performances from Ocean's Eight at The Old Oak at 9pm. They put on a great show every time.

For a bit of sonic and sartorial contrast, at 10pm in Bradley's on Barrack Street there will be a gig by the Aud-

ible Joes, a punk band who claim influences like Stiff Little Fingers, Nirvana and Johnny Cash.

In The Pavilion at the same time, there will be a double bill from two of the finest new bands from Cork in recent years, The Careers and Grave Lanterns.

After that, why not stroll down to one of my favourite gigs of the week which is the Midnight Rambles in The Oliver Plunkett, where a rotating bunch of some of Cork's best Americana/rock players such as John Blek and The Rats, hold court in the middle of the bar. You never know what you will hear but you can be sure it'll be great!

Tomorrow

Blind Lemon, a fantastically tight

and varied blues rock band will be rolling into BDSM on North Main Street at 8pm.

Down in Sober Lane on Sullivan's Quay, the one man musical tornado that is Pat Fitz will be playing from 9pm with his usual mix of classic and contemporary songs.

At 10pm, Crazy Chester will be bringing their classic rock sound to Coughlan's, recently voted the best live music venue in Ireland in the **IMRO** awards.

You can expect some Beatles, maybe some Byrds but no snakes!

Saturday, March 15

One Horse Pony released an album of their high-energy acoustic blues last year and they will be in Costigan's on Pembroke Street at 9pm.



Evening Echo

Meanwhile on the other side of the river, there will be a night of guitar, sax and two great vocalists when Tomás McCarthy and Clodagh Kearney hold court in Brú on MacCurtain Street from 9.30pm.

Sunday, March 16

Fuaim will be playing an afternoon trad set in Sin É on Coburg Street at 3.30pm while, a little later, El Coche Fantastico, an ensemble of great musicians who play a variation of classic songs will play in The Mutton Lane at 7pm.

One of the most fun tribute bands you can catch, Mac Fleetwood, will be taking to the stage at the Crane Lane at 9pm.

Rattlesnake County will be playing

some great country and rock music in The Woodford on Paul Street from 10pm.

Monday, March 17

Ok, deep breath... if you manage to get to all of these, you deserve a medal!

One of Ireland's favourite traditional ensembles, the Céili Allstars will be in The Bodega at 4.30pm while another trad group, G'wan, will be on at the same time in The Vicarstown on North Main Street.

If you are in the mood for some bluegrass meets punk, you'll enjoy Railyard Ghosts in Fred Zeppelin's on Parliament Street from around 6pm.

One of the newest pubs on the block, El Fenix on Union Quay, will be host-

ing one of the hottest sets in Cork, John Synnott's Honky Tonk Sessions from 5pm.

Next door later in the evening, Two Time Polka who play an amazing combination of cajun, rock and roll and R 'n' B, will perform in Charlies from 9pm. Get there early for a good spot.

And if you are still going and want to toast St Patrick a little more, the fantastic eight-piece band (Pontious Pilate And) The Naildrivers will be bringing everything to a close in The Crane Lane from midnight, with their great covers of ska and rock legends such as The Specials, Madness and The Clash.

● For more information, go to www.facebook.com/corkfreesession