



THE COURTENAY SOCIETY

To all members of the Courtenay Society

20th February 2006

Dear Members

You will find with this letter the final itinerary for our visit to Ireland in October, together with a booking form. You will see that Doug needs deposits by the 15th March at the latest to secure hotel rooms (see page 4 – Payments).

A great deal of work and research has gone into the planning of this trip, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will come, because it will be both fun and interesting. Also because the more of us go, the lower the cost! Having said that, it does work out expensive, but we have cut it down, and it is not a trip that can be done on the cheap.

I do hope to see a goodly number of you there.

I am also sending with this letter, to those of you who usually get one, the reminder of annual subscriptions. This is a bit earlier than usual, but we always try to save postage. Subscriptions are due in April, and any cheques sent to us before then will be held until April before they are paid in. Those of you who pay by standing order will also receive this form to confirm that you wish to continue your subscription.

Yours sincerely

Lady Katherine Watney
Chairman

Courtenay Society Visit to the Emerald Isle.

Tour commences: Sunday 22nd October 2006.

Upon advice from our Irish contacts, we have decided to opt for the later departure date of 22nd October. This date will encompass English schools' half term break, so there may be an opportunity for some of our younger members to take part. The tour has also been reduced from 7 nights to 6 nights, in order to achieve: a) a more affordable price, and b) to give members the opportunity to extend their visit to Ireland by a day either end without encroaching too much on the working weeks either side.

The original proposal for the AGM to be held in Ireland has been dropped, although we do propose to hold an informal meeting during the tour. Since we are advised that there is no legal requirement to hold an AGM, the accounts and Chairman's Report will be published with the newsletter.

As the tour starts and finishes in Ireland, you will have the option of arriving in Ireland early, or extending your stay at the end in order to tour independently, or further your own research.

You may make your own arrangements for travelling to and from Ireland, or I will be happy to assist with air fares and hotels. (It is sometimes cheaper to buy air tickets for journeys originating in N. America in the UK and to mail them to the traveller – please ask for quotations. I can also obtain rates for car-rental and corporate rates at a wide selection of hotels).

If there is sufficient interest from members to convene at a common point in England and to travel to Ireland together, this could be arranged nearer to the departure date. Please advise on the booking form if this would be of interest to you. It is usually cheaper to fly to Ireland from one of the London airports than from a UK provincial airport.

Your Itinerary:

Sunday 22nd October:

Arrive Belfast. Make your own way to the hotel. Free time for sightseeing (Possible optional organised City tour in the afternoon). No arrangements have been made for this evening, but as it is Lady Katherine's birthday, an impromptu party at the hotel looks to be a possibility.

Hotel: Jurys Inn Belfast (3*), Fisherwick Place.

Monday 23rd October :

10.00am: Coach Tour Starts. Depart Hotel for Newry, Co. Down (about 40 miles). Short stop in Newry to visit: Courtenay Hill, and St Patrick's Church (Courtenay graves) – Ireland's first Protestant church dating from 1578.

We will then depart Newry for County Meath and Trim Castle, where will stop for lunch.

“Trim castle, is the largest Anglo – Norman castle in Ireland and was constructed over a thirty year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter. In Medieval times, Trim Castle stood like an imposing stone sentinel and powerful symbol of Norman strength at the edge of the Pale, the small area of Anglo-Norman influence on Ireland's eastern coast. To go beyond the Pale was to enter the hostile world of the Gaelic Irish. Here at the edge, the two sides would have met in battle.”

Arrive Dublin mid-afternoon. Check into the Trinity Capital Hotel, Pearse Street, for 2 nights.

The group is free tonight to take in some of Dublin's lively night-spots. There is a wide choice of things to do. (restaurants/theatres/pubs/clubs etc).

Tuesday 24th October :

07.30 – 09.00: Optional breakfast sessions with genealogist Helen Kelly (see note at end of the itinerary **).

09.45 – 10.30: A mini walking tour to the National Library of Ireland.

10.45 – 11.45: We have a private room booked at the National Library, where we will be treated to a seminar on researching Irish Ancestry from Helen Kelly, one of Ireland's top genealogists. There will be a Q&A session after the seminar.

You will be left to your own devices for lunch.

1.30: Meet back at the Library for the group to be broken into various parties for further family history research in the Dublin Archives, or Land registry Office, or sightseeing.

Optional activities in Dublin – I will circulate a selection of optional sightseeing tours once we know the number of participants. Discount availability will depend on the numbers that wish to do each activity. Alternatively, the afternoon is free for shopping.

This evening the group will depart for Johnnie Foxes. Situated in Glencullen in the Dublin mountains, Johnnie Fox's is one of Ireland's oldest and most famous pubs and undoubtedly the highest pub in the country. Your four course meal is followed by a music session and the Johnnie Fox's famous Irish dancers, who provide a spectacular performance.

Overnight: Trinity Capital Hotel.

Wednesday 25th October :

After a full Irish breakfast the group will depart for Limerick.

9.30am: Depart Dublin for Kildare (30 miles) – Tour of Kildare Cathedral.

Early Gothic style Cathedral, built by the Norman Bishop Ralph of Bristol in 1223. Restored in the 19th century. Interesting interior featuring early Christian carvings, and the tomb of Bishop Walter Wellesley who died in 1539. The grounds contain a Round Tower, Celtic Cross, and St Brigid's Firehouse.

11.45am: Depart Kildare for tour of the 'Rock of Cashel' (65 miles), and lunch.

"The Rock of Cashel is a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale including the 12th century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel and much more. The original forbidding fortification of the Eoghanachta, kings of Munster, witnessed the struggle for dominance of Munster kings over the whole of Ireland. Brian Ború was crowned King of Munster here in 977 and he became High King of Ireland in 1002. He was the first high king to exact universal and effective tribute from the other kings of Ireland."

Continue to Limerick (about 40 miles). Arrive about 5.30pm.

After our long day, we have arranged for the group to eat together at the hotel this evening

Overnight : Jurys Inn.Limerick, Lower Mallow Street. 3 nights' stay.

Thursday 26th October :

We have a full day of activities in Newcastle West. Although the final timetable is still being finalised.

We will visit the Courtenay School, who are coincidentally celebrating their 300th anniversary this year.

Lunch will be taken at the Courtenay Lodge Hotel, in the company of some members of the Newcastle West History Society.

We will make a walking tour of the town, visit the Desmond Hall, once owned by the Courtenay family, where there is an exhibition of historical artifacts. More details to follow.

Hotel; Jurys Inn, Limerick

Friday 27th October:

09.30 depart for Bunratty Folk Park, within the grounds of Bunratty Castle. Set in 26 acres of impressive park, it features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village, and rural setting.

12.00: Return to Limerick, where you will be left to your own devices for lunch, exploring and shopping. There are plenty of interesting places to visit. Details of some of the options will be provided later.

Evening: Return to Bunratty for a Traditional Irish Night .

The Corn Barn is a perfect setting for a celebration of the best traditions of Ireland today, in the company of the finest singers, dancers, musicians, and story-tellers of the local villages. You can experience at first hand the authentic way that generations of Irish people have entertained themselves and their friends. We dine on home cooked food and excellent wine.

This will make our last night together a memorable souvenir of our tour.

Overnight Jurys Inn, Limerick.

Saturday 28th October :

At present it is anticipated that most participants will be arriving/departing by air. When I am more informed where members are heading back to, I can arrange the Coach transfer to the airport at the most convenient time. Shannon Airport is only about 15 miles from Limerick. We will also arrange transportation to Dublin, Cork or Belfast airports if required – price to be advised – depending on numbers. Public transport (Train or bus may be alternatives to be considered).

What does it cost ? What is included? - nearly everything!

Luxury coach for 6 days, with driver/guide, and tour escort.

Accommodation: 1 night B&B 3* Jurys Inn, Belfast.
2 nights B&B 3* Trinity Capital Hotel, Dublin.
3 nights B&B 3* Jurys Inn, Limerick.

Portage included at all hotels.

Entrances/activities: Trim Castle, Irish Night in Dublin (Johnny Foxes), Tour of Kildare Cathedral, Rock of Cashel, Visit to Desmond Castle/exhibition, Visit to Bunratty Folk Park, Traditional Irish Night and Dinner (Bunratty),

Meals Included: 6 Full Irish Breakfasts.
1 Evening meal at Johnnie Fox's.
1 Evening meal at Jurys Inn, Limerick on Wednesday 25 October..
1 Lunch at Courtenay Lodge Hotel.
1 Evening meal at Bunratty Irish Night.

Genealogy: 1 hour Irish Genealogy seminar at National Library

**Based on Group size 45 : £730.00 per person sharing twin/double room.
(US\$1273/CAN\$1465/NZ\$1904/AUS\$1756)**

Single room supplement : £140.00. (US\$244/CAN\$281/NZ\$366/AUS\$337)

**Based on Group size 30: £851.00 per person sharing twin/double room.
(US\$1483/CAN\$1707/NZ\$2220/AUS\$2047)**

Single room supplement : £140.00. (US\$244/CAN\$281/NZ\$366/AUS\$337)

These prices are guides: the greater the number – the cheaper the tour (up to 52) – get your friends to join in.

What is not included?: 3 evening meals (Sunday, Monday and Thursday.)
All lunches except Thursday at Courtenay Lodge Hotel.
Drinks with meals (except Bunratty Irish Night).
Other items of a personal nature. (Optional Tip for bus driver).
Personal Insurance cover (see below ***)

Otional Extras: All prices based on 2005 rates. (NB; £ in N.Ireland/Euros in the south)

Belfast City Tour: About 1 hour 25 minutes – see all the main sights of interest with a knowledgeable guide.
Adults = £9.00. (US\$16/CAN\$18/NZ\$24/AUS\$22)
Children (up to 12years) = £5.00 (US\$9/CAN\$10/NZ\$13/AUS\$13)
A discount may be available depending on numbers.

Dublin City Tour: Adult = EUR17 (UK£12/US\$20/CAN\$23/NZ\$31/AUS\$28)
Child = EUR6 (UK£4/US\$7/CAN\$8/NZ\$11/AUS\$10)

Guinness Storehouse: Adult = EUR14 (UK£10/US\$17/CAN\$19/NZ\$25/AUS\$23)
Group of 15+ = EUR12 (UK£8/US\$14/CAN\$16/NZ\$22/AUS\$20)

The Old Jameson Distillery: Adult EUR8.75(UK£6/US\$10/CAN\$12/NZ\$16/AUS\$15)
(Tour and tasting) Adult group EUR7 (UK£5/US\$8/CAN\$10/NZ\$13/AUS\$12)
Child EUR3.95 (UK£3/US\$5/CAN\$5/NZ\$8/AUS\$7)

Dublin Archives/General Register Office, Registry of Deeds, Valuation Office – search fees.

Limerick city tours/options : - prices tba.

In all the above calculations I have used the following exchange rates (14 Feb 2006):

UK£1 = US\$1.7424, CAN\$1.9939, NZ\$2.5987, AUS\$2.4009
EURO rate = US\$ 1.1906, CAN\$1.3702, NZ\$ 1.7809, AUS\$ 1.6423, UK£0.68268

If there is a significant change to the conversion rates between now and when payments are due to suppliers, adjustments will need to be made. (When we went to France the rates changed in our favour and we got more for our money!)

Payment:

A non-refundable deposit of EUR250.00 (UK£171.00, US\$298.00, CAN\$343.00, NZ\$446, AUS\$411.00) is required at the time of booking. By no later than 15 March 2006, please.

Later payments will be subject to room availability.

The balance will become due for payment by 22 August 2006.

Payment may be made by Sterling cheque, or preferably credit card (Visa, Mastercard, or American Express).

Insurance cover is strongly recommended in case of cancellation due to illness etc.

****Genealogy with Helen Kelly:**

Optional Private Breakfast sessions with Helen Kelly in Dublin. Must be booked in advance:
(30 minutes = €35. 60 minutes = €50.)

Helen's seminar at the National Library will be on researching Irish Ancestry in general. However, she has requested that any of our group who have Irish ancestors, please let her know in advance, so that she can do some basic research, and offer relevant help during her session. She only requires basic information: names, birth dates, places. This information is also needed for the breakfast sessions. Other optional information that might help includes: Religious denomination, Occupation, name of spouse (if married in Ireland), year of marriage if known, names and dates of birth of Irish-born children, date of departure from Ireland.

*****Personal Insurance Cover:**

We are unable to arrange Insurance Cover for Non-UK citizens.

The Rates for 8 days cover in the UK and Irish Republic are as follows:-

Adult under 65 years old = £10.00.

Adult 65 years + = £20.00.

Family of 2 adults and any number of children under 18 years old the inclusive premium is £22.50.

There is an Excess of £75 on all claims. To all of the above premiums can be added an Excess Waiver supplement of £7.50 per person (optional).

Quotes for longer durations are available on request.

Summary of Insurance Cover: (Available for UK citizens only).

Loss of deposit/cancellation /curtailment up to £5,000.

Delayed departure up to £100.

Missed departure up to £300.

Medical and other expenses up to £5,000,000.

Personal accident up to £25,000.

Baggage and Personal belongings up to £1,500 (Single item limit £250, Valuables limit £200).

Delayed baggage up to £100.

Personal money & passport up to £300 total (Cash - £100).

Personal liability up to £2,000,000.

Legal expenses up to £25,000.

All claims carry an Excess of £75, except:

Delayed departure, Personal accident, Delayed baggage, Personal liability, and Legal expenses = No Excess.

Medical and other expenses if 65 years old or over = £100.

A health questionnaire has to be completed for each insurance application.

Any pre-existing medical condition must be declared, otherwise your Insurance cover may be invalid.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions:-

Doug Courtney,
The Travel Centre of Henley Ltd.,
12 Friday Street,
Henley on Thames,
Oxfordshire.
RG9 1AH.
England.

Telephone: 01491-575045 (or 0044 1491 575045 from outside of the UK)

Fax: 01491-410229 (or 0044 1491 410229)

Email: doug@travelcentrehenley.co.uk

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The Courtenay Society Tour to Ireland – 22 October 2006

<u>Title.</u>	<u>First Name.</u>	<u>Family Name</u>	<u>Insurance Cover*</u> <u>Yes/no**</u>	<u>Rooms***</u> <u>(bracket sharers)</u>
1.	yes/no.....
2.	yes/no.....
3.	yes/no.....
4.	yes/no.....

***Insurance: For UK residents only:** (For more details, see itinerary). We are obliged to provide insurance cover unless you have alternative cover. If you have alternative cover, you are required to advise the name of the Insurance Company. Name of Insurer:.....
**** Please delete as appropriate. *** Please state room type required:** either 'Single', 'Twin', or 'Double'.

Special requests: e.g. Non-smoking room/Wheelchair access/Adjoining or adjacent rooms/Special dietary requirement etc. We will do our best to meet your requirements.

Optional Excursions: Please state number of places required. You may book sightseeing tours at any time, as I will not confirm them until a week or two before we depart:

- Belfast City Tour (Sunday pm) _____ Adults _____ Children (Ages _____)
- Dublin City Tour (Tuesday pm) _____ Adults _____ Children (Ages _____)
- Guinness (Tuesday pm) _____ Adults _____ Children (Ages _____)
- Jameson (Tuesday pm) _____ Adults _____ Children (Ages _____)
- Dublin Archives/Land registry etc (Details to be advised) _____
- Helen Kelly Breakfast session: 30 minutes @ €35 _____, or 1 hour @ €50 _____
- Limerick City Tour (Prices tba) _____ Adults _____ Children (Ages _____)

Travel arrangements: Do you need me to make travel arrangements for you to and from Ireland, or elsewhere? If so, please give details below:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Preferred times:</u>	<u>Additional info.</u>
.....
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.....

I confirm that I am authorised to make these travel arrangements on behalf of the persons named on this booking form. The Travel centre of Henley will only accept instructions from the undersigned for all those named on this form. Instructions will only be accepted upon receipt of written instructions in the form of a letter, fax or email. Email booking forms are deemed to be signed by the sender.

Non-refundable deposit required = €250/UK£171/US\$298/CA\$343/AU\$411/NZ\$446 per person

Lead Name (Print):..... **Postal Address:**.....
Signature.....
Date:.....
Telephone No:.....
Email address:.....