Ardgillan Castle Revealed book launched by Pat Kenny in Ardgillan Castle

Broadcaster Pat Kenny launched the book *Ardgillan Castle Revealed*, written by castle tour guide Aidan Herron on Saturday, 3 November in Ardgillan Castle.

The book was financially supported by Fingal County Council who bought Ardgillan Castle in 1982. In attendance of the launch was Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Gráinne Maguire, local councilors and Senior Executive Officer of Fingal County Council’s Economic and Social Development, Mary Godwin.
Terence Taylour’s family lived in Ardgillian Castle from the time it was built in 1738. He and his wife Lindy attended the launch as special guests along with many of Ardgillian’s voluntary tour guides.

Mr Herron’s book explores the history of Ardgillian Castle and originated as a series of articles called *Hidden Gems of Ardgillian Castle* featured in *The Skerries News*.

During her speech, Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Gráinne Maguire said: “Ardgillian Castle is one of the County’s most popular destinations among Fingal residents and visitors. Aidan’s book, *Ardgillian Castle Revealed*, offers invaluable insight to the history of the castle as well as unique details of treasures and collections that reside in the House are currently not on view to the public. This book is a creative and engaging reflection of the Castle, its history and importance in Fingal.”

Speaking at the launch, Senior Executive Officer of Fingal County Council’s Economic and Social Development, Mary Godwin said: “Fingal County Council is delighted to support Aidan Herron’s excellent work in highlighting Ardgillian Castle’s historical significance. The castle and surrounding grounds are important to Fingal’s tourism and recreation and it is fantastic that Aidan has used his research and experience to illustrate this through writing *Ardgillian Castle Revealed.*”

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid said: “Fingal County Council is responsible for a collection of properties which are all popular sites for residents and tourists. To preserve the history of these sites for future generations, it is essential to support writers and researchers such as Aidan in their innovative projects to promote Fingal’s heritage and history.”

In his speech, Pat Kenny welcomed the book as an important initiative in respecting our history and traditions and described it as “a masterpiece of photography and story-telling.”

During his address, Mr Herron said: “Ardgillon is a unique place with unique attractions and stories. People need to see that the castle is more than just a panoramic setting as Eamon O’Daly’s sublime photographs illustrate. His images portray Ardgillan in all its former, poignant grandeur. I would also like to thank Fingal County Council for its financial support in allowing this publication to happen.”

The entire proceeds of this publication will be donated to the Board of Ardgillan to kick start the process of developing specific heritage projects that will allow the public to view these valuable artefacts during guided tours of the Castle.

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For further information or more photos, please contact press@fingal.ie

Photo caption: Photographer Eamon O’Daly, Author Aidan Herron, Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Grainne Maguire and Pat Kenny at Ardgillan Castle.

Notes to editors:

_Ardgillan Castle Revealed_ includes photos taken by photographer Eamon O’Daly. On Saturday, the audience viewed an audio visual presentation of Eamon’s skill and innovation in bringing the scenes and surroundings of the Castle to life. This video will shortly be available on Ardgillan Castle’s website.

The book is now on sale in Ardgillan Castle and in local bookshops. You can find out more about Eamon and Christine’s workshops at www.skerriesphotography.com

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