



with Maria Nolan

Town and County Life

EVENT OF THE 2017 SEASON IN ENNISCORTHY

THE SUMMER event of the season is the only way to describe the Golden Strawberry Ball on Wednesday last, May 31, at Riverside Park Hotel, as the fashion conscious and fun loving people of Enniscorthy and beyond came out in both numbers and style to show their support of one of the longest running Festivals in the country.

Such was the popularity of this year's 50th Anniversary Ball suffice it to say that the demand for tickets was only marginally surpassed by the demand for tickets for the Wexford-Kilkenny encounter on June 10, and the Riverside ballroom was packed to capacity.

The Ball dress code was nothing short of red carpet with absolutely fabulous

creations on display for the prestigious event. As guests, princesses and former Queens mixed and mingled at the Pre-Ball Champagne and Strawberries Reception the Riverside Foyer became a magical garden of splendidly fluttering butterflies of every colour, pattern and hue.

Long, longer, short and shorter a stunning ensemble of floral, embossed, sequined and plain gowns sashayed and swirled with elegance and design and all were beautiful.

The Riverside repas of Beef or Salmon was of the usual excellent standard, preceded by soup or smoked chicken salad and followed by scrumptious strawberry desserts. The speeches by Cyril Wheelock, chairman of Strawberry Fair,

Oliver Walsh, chairman of Enniscorthy Municipal District Council, Minister Paul Kehoe and Town Manager Liz Hore were apt, well delivered and concise and the entertainment Wrecking Ball was top drawer.

Indeed, a Golden Anniversary celebration to be remembered, MC'd by maestro Jimmy Gahan it was a wonderful Enniscorthy showcase of fantastic food, excellent entertainment, stunning style and clarion company.

A special opportunity that will come our way but once and full credit to the Strawberry Street Rhythms Committee for making it possible and for giving us all a golden memory.

Pictures from the ball below



Mr and Mrs John Carley.



Joyce Nolan and Rebecca O'Connor.



Maree and Michael Lyng.



Clara Byrne and Megan O'Shea.

Bearing gifts from Down Under

JENNIFER WOOD, née Prendergast, from Whitsundays, Queensland, Australia, returned to Enniscorthy Castle, the home of her ancestor Philip de Prendergast, on Tuesday, May 30, last bearing gifts from Down Under.

This is Jennifer's second visit to the castle of her forebear, having been here previously in August of 2015 when she met David Hasslacher, a member of the Roche family and one of the last inhabitants of the castle. A historic meeting for the two at the place where their families spanned the generations from 1205 to the 1950s.

Jennifer was delighted with her first visit to the town and the castle and took the opportunity to return while back in Ireland delivering a paper at the Clans and Surnames Conference at Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, during the week.

On Tuesday last Jennifer hosted a most elegant and delicious afternoon at the castle in appreciation of the reception she received in the town in 2015. Among the invited guests were Paddy Kavanagh, chairman of Wexford County Council, Liz Hore, Enniscorthy Town Manager, John Burke O'Leary,

president of Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce, David Hasslacher, Cathy Keane, Bualadh Bus and others who joined Jennifer as she chatted happily over tea and delicacies, relating many stories of the Prendergast family adventures on the other side of the world.

Jennifer's great grandfather by five, John Prendergast, was deported from the Enniscorthy area to Australia in the aftermath of the 1798 Rebellion.

The afternoon tea party were treated to a presentation video by Mayor Jo Rettino from the East Gippsland area with warm greetings from the people of East Gippsland to the people of Enniscorthy.

Jennifer made presentations to chairman Paddy Kavanagh from the mayor of the City of Hawkesbury, Mary Buckett-Lyons, along with a letter outlining the historical role that the Prendergast family along with all the rebels, convicts and other immigrants played in being the first settlers in the Hawkesbury region and in helping Australia to become the land it is today.

Jennifer presented Paddy with a book from the mayor of Whitsunday Regional Council Andrew Wilcox

and a welcoming letter to the people of Ireland.

Jenny told the gathering of her extensive research into the history of the Prendergasts and thanked all who had been instrumental in helping her realise her own dream and the dreams of her dad that the family would one day return to the castle. She said that she was totally overwhelmed with the Enniscorthy welcome once again and would be blogging it out to the world.

Her purpose in life now she said is to bring people from Gippsland to Ireland and in particular to Wexford and Enniscorthy to trace their roots and to establish definite tourism links between opposite ends of the world.

Paddy Kavanagh, Liz Hore and John Burke O'Leary told Jennifer that she would get every assistance possible from Wexford County Council, Enniscorthy Municipal District Council and Enniscorthy Chamber on her quest.

As we took our leave of our warm and welcoming hostess I couldn't help but think that Philip de Prendergast would indeed be smiling down approvingly on this charming lady of the castle.



Jennifer Wood with Town Manager Liz Hore.