

its that represented the symbols, including headphones and her favourite sweets.

that everywhere she went, she made friends", and that she gave a lot of her time to charity and good

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

The 27-year-old junior doctor from Adare said she is "shocked and delighted" following the

Sine Rose t

Manor is 'block booked' by Ryder Cup tea

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DETAILED discussions" have already begun with Ryder Cup officials ahead of the 2026 golf showpiece in Adare Manor with the venue already block booked by the tournament teams.

It was confirmed last month that the biennial competition between Europe and the United States would be staged at the five-star resort, owned by businessman JP McManus, his wife Noreen and family.

"Detailed discussions are ongoing in terms of all aspects of it. We had an hour and a half meeting this morning with them," Colm Hannon, CEO of Adare Manor told the Limerick Leader on Friday.

Mr Hannon was speaking at the Limerick Person of the Month award presentation in the Clayton Hotel where he and the manor's golf course superintendent Alan MacDonnell accepted the Limerick Person of the Month award on behalf of the entire team at Adare Manor who secured the Ryder Cup.

"Adare Manor is booked. It is block booked at the moment by the Ryder Cup so all of the teams will stay in Adare Manor. They estimate that within an hour to an hour and 40 minutes of Adare will be completely full."

Setting up for a Ryder Cup is "a major logistical exercise" explained Mr Hannon who along with Mr MacDonnell visited Paris just before the last Ryder Cup in 2018 to see the set-up.

"In terms of some of the stats, there is a six month set-up on grand stands, corporate

hospitality, bridges, walkways, I mean it's a major exercise," Mr Hannon pointed out. "The grand stand in Paris, the first tee experience, could take 6,300 people and this is for them, the big thing, it's the first tee experience because everyone starts on the first tee. They are introducing the golfers and then the big roar."

Ryder Cup officials visited Adare Manor in 2015 to carry out a detailed inspection of the golf course before the major redevelopment.

"We knew they were coming

and they said 'of course' and every then they gave us: saying, if you want course tourname is where you'll have this is what you r we started that p we went through years we invited rington down, Pa Shane Lowry, Ro and several other And then we br

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Lady Geraldine explains mask move

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FOR more than 160 years, the Dunraven family of Adare were keepers of an unusual artefact, the death mask of the Kerryman known as the Liberator, Daniel O'Connell.

The death mask came into the possession of the family thanks to a firm friendship between O'Connell and the Third Earl of

Adare.

But now the death mask has been gifted to the State by Lady Geraldine Dunraven. The Office of Public Works intends to put it on display as part of a collection depicting the life of O'Connell in his former home, Derrynane House.

Right: Lady Geraldine with the mask

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



Inside

Business

News

Community

rs

JA

W

M

CL

W

FRID

St. M

Gree

Trac

Mecl

M

Mon

King

Moyl

Sout

O'Connell death mask gifted to the State

■ Lady Geraldine Dunraven reveals historic ties between the two prominent families

NORMA PRENDIVILLE

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THE death mask of Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator, will be repaired by the Office of Public Works (OPW) before it goes on permanent display at O'Connell's home, Derrynane House in Co Kerry, a spokesman for the OPW has confirmed.

The death mask was presented to Maurice Buckley, chairman of the OPW by Lady Geraldine Dunraven at the weekend.

"I think it is gone to its right home," Lady Geraldine explained to the Limerick Leader. "We have been its custodians for 161 years. It was a wonderful and great honour to have it in the family."

"It was such a special thing to be able to return the death-mask," she continued. The timing of the presentation was very apt, taking place during National Heritage Week, and while the annual Daniel O'Connell Summer School was in full swing in Derrynane.

Lady Geraldine explained that she and her daughter Ana had been thinking about it for about two years. But she and her late husband, Thady, the last Earl of Dunraven had spoken about bequeathing the mask on several occasions before his death. "It is

the Third Earl of Dunraven in memorial of the two men's long years of friendship."

The Earl, she added, had rented the land on which Derrynane Cottage sits from the O'Connell family and then bought it in 1858. The death-mask was kept in Derrynane Cottage.

Lady Geraldine's daughter Ana, vividly remembers the death-mask from childhood and the stories told her by her late father, Thady, the last Earl of Dunraven who died in 2011.

"My father always told me there were 12 death masks," Lady Ana said. "I don't know if that is true but that was what Dad said." "For all those years, it sat quite reverently on a shelf," she explained.

"In recent years, we have had quite a lot of young children, with mischievous hands, in the house and unfortunately a little bit of damage was done. We didn't want the mask to be any more damaged and returning it to the State would be a good idea."

The friendship between the Third Earl and Daniel O'Connell has extended down through the generations. The last Earl, Thady, was very friendly with the late Dr Dan O'Connell, a descendant of the Liberator, and also with historian Maurice O'Connell. Dr Dan's son and his family are now close neighbours to the Dunravens' home in Derrynane.

The death mask was presented to the State in a specially-made white box, wrapped with an emerald green ribbon.

Daniel O'Connell died in 1847 in Genoa, Italy, while on pilgrimage to Rome at the age of 71.

At the time of his death, it was not uncommon that a death mask would be made of an important person's face with the masks often used by sculptors and artists when creating busts and paintings.

The death mask will be an "incredibly valuable" addition to the collection at Derrynane House, Maurice Buckley said. That collection tells the story of Daniel O'Connell from the cradle to the grave. "We look forward to making it central to the collection," he said.



Lady Geraldine Dunraven with Maurice Buckley, chairman of the OPW, at the Daniel O'Connell Summer School at the weekend.



Left: Lady Geraldine holding the death mask, which is also pictured right. The mask will be on display in Derrynane House, Caherdaniel, County Kerry

“ We have been its custodians for 161 years. It was a wonderful and great honour to have it in the family. ”

Lady Geraldine, Countess of Dunraven

quite heavy," she explained. "His nose got broken and that was the catalyst."

How it came into the possession of the Dunraven family is still a bit of mystery. But, Lady Geraldine said, the third Earl of Dunraven was a great friend of Daniel O'Connell. "We believe somebody may have given it to