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Emma Langford  
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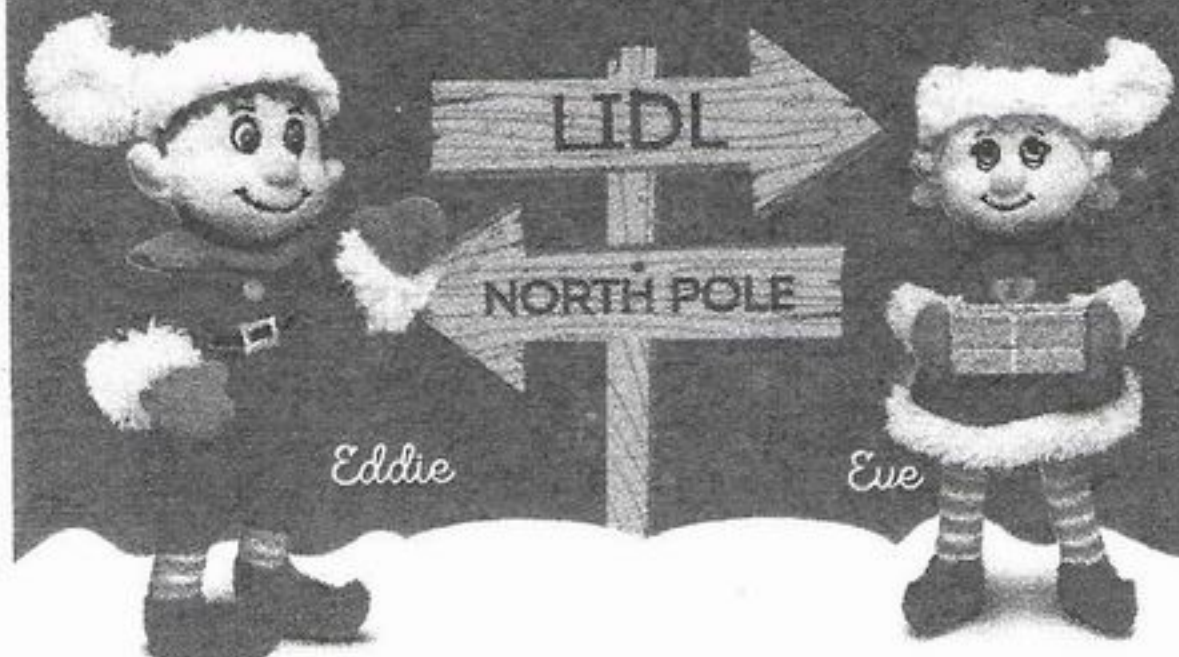
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MORE FOR YOU

## CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

This Christmas, the Lidl Elves  
dad Nick, mum Holly, and twins,  
Eddie and Eve, are absolutely  
everywhere! Wanting to experience  
the joy of Christmas they have been  
exploring this very newspaper. Spot  
where each pops up throughout the  
pages of this week's  
Limerick Leader.



To be in with a chance of winning a Lidl shopping  
voucher, simply make a note of the page number that  
Nick, Holly, Eddie and Eve appear on this week and send  
it to competitions@limericknews.ie along with your  
name and contact details. All correct entries will go into  
the draw. Winners will be contacted by the Limerick  
Leader directly and they will be announced in the week  
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# Fascinating family tome

## New book chronicles the history of the Dunraven family and Adare Manor

**I**F there be one thing more than another which makes me feel grateful and proud of the beautiful residence which I have in Adare, it is the fact that the whole of the stonework, the whole of the carving, the whole of the decorations of the place, the whole of the labour from bottom to top are the work of Adare people."

Above is one of the many striking quotes - this by Edwin, 3rd Earl of Dunraven - to feature in a new book just published, *Adare Manor, The Renaissance of an Irish Country House*, penned by Turtle Bunbury.

This quote along with many stories and illustrations in the book convey the great bond between the Dunraven family and the people of Adare, which continues today.

This remarkable cord is further illustrated during the time of The Famine and a report from the Dublin Weekly Nation in February 1848 which is quoted in the book reads: "Our correspondent states that none of Lord Dunraven's people have gone to the workhouse - that all have employment - and that even the female children, in the well attended Adare school, are paid for their needlework. He says there are three hundred labourers employed by his lordship, each holding cottages and ground from him, on easy terms, and between forty and fifty tradesmen kept constantly at work. He also speaks of the humanity of the Countess Dunraven, who distributed a vast amount of clothing to the poor people, not, he says, by way of charity, but as Christmas gifts."

At the launch of the book last week in Adare Manor was Lady Geraldine Dunraven, the last of the great Irish family to live in the Manor, with the late Thady Dunraven, the 7th and last Earl of Dunraven. As a 17-year-old he contracted polio, but this did not deter his enthusiasm for life. In 1969 he married Geraldine McAleer, a daughter of Air Commodore Gerald W. McAleer. He opened Adare Manor to the public in 1968



The late Thady Dunraven, the last and 7th Earl, looks lovingly at Lady Geraldine on their wedding day

and he and Lady Geraldine twice offered the property to the Irish State before selling to Tom and Judy Kane in 1987. They converted it into a hotel and built a golf course on it, before selling to JP and Noreen McManus in 2014.

Fittingly, Lady Geraldine was present at the book launch and told me she had read the publication "from cover to cover".

"The author, Turtle Bunbury, has been a friend of our family since he was about 10 and he absolutely loved my husband so he's dedicated the book to him," she said.

She said the general public always got to share in the beauty of the Manor.

"The house was open to the general public from 1965 to 1982 and in the last year we had 85,000 visitors," she said.

The construction of the Manor was primarily overseen by Windham Quin, 2nd Earl of Dunraven and his wife Caroline, who had, the book reveals, travelled extensively through England

and Europe in pursuit of ideas for their architectural dream.

But they ran into financial problems managing the ailing Wyndham estates in England and Wales and would not realise the scale of her inheritance until the mid-1820s when, like a Gothic fairy-tale, it emerged that the Dunraven estate in Wales was sprawled upon one of the richest coal seams in north-west Europe.

"The income from the coal would subsidise Adare for the remainder of the century, not least during the Great Hunger of the 1840's when many other Irish estates went bankrupt. It also enabled Windham and Caroline to embark on the massive building project at Adare, where they lived together from 1826 until Windham's death in 1850."

Speaking at the launch, Colm Hannon, Adare Manor, chief executive said: "Adare Manor has always been an integral part of the local community and south west region, and we wanted to capture and share the rich history and story of this beautiful place. From the Dunravens who had the inspiration to create a neo-Gothic masterpiece modelled on the great houses and cathedrals of Europe over 180 years ago, to the McManus family today who believed this gorgeous setting had tremendous potential to become a world-class destination. They wanted to create a resort with all-year-round appeal for both Irish and overseas visitors that would also help to promote and develop the region."



"Turtle Bunbury, editor of this fine book and his team have spent two years researching, listening and learning all about the life of Adare Manor, to ensure the book represents the wonderful history of this magnificent property. We are delighted with the final publication."

"I would like to say a special thank you to the custodians throughout the years, from the Dunravens, to the Kanes, to the McManus family. Through their combined appreciation of the heritage and architecture, Adare Manor now stands among the top resorts in the world. This special book captures their contribution, and the contribution of everyone who has supported them through the years, safeguarding Adare Manor for generations to enjoy and visit, who will create the next chapter in Adare Manor's history."

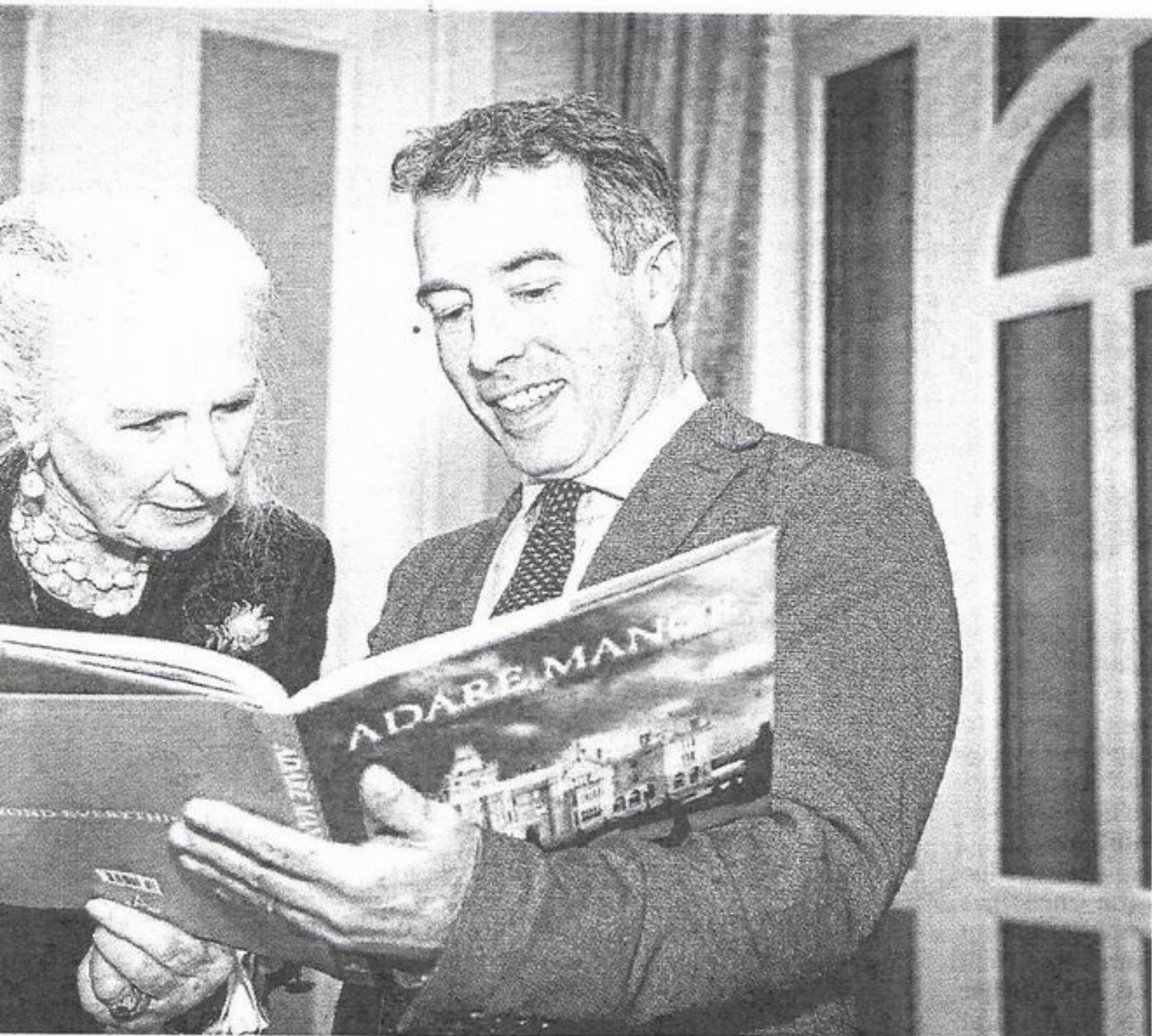
In a foreword JP and Noreen McManus reveal their delight with the "great response from guests who have visited Adare Manor and from golfers who have played the course. Everyone



Paudie Griffin, Liam O'Kelly, Maeve Kelly, Valarie Shine O'Kelly, Tom Sexton, Tom Kelly and Anthony Murphy at the launch in Adare Manor of *Adare Manor, The Renaissance of an Irish Country House*



# L2 COVER STORY 3



Lady Geraldine Dunraven and Turtle Bunbury, author of the book: 'The author, Turtle Bunbury, has been a friend of our family since he was about 10 and he absolutely loved my husband so he's dedicated the book to him,' Lady Geraldine explained PICTURES: KEITH WISEMAN

here understands the importance of absolute attention to detail in everything that we do, whilst delivering the highest quality of customer service. Our aim is to constantly exceed guests' expectations, ensuring that Ireland can compete with the best internationally."

This elegant hardback coffee table book consisting of almost 200 pages is superbly woven together by the author, an award-winning author and historian, with excellent images going back over the centuries with enthralling stories about the Quin, and Wyndham Quin families, including the seven Earls of Dunraven.

Not only does Turtle Bunbury cover the fascinating story of the Manor but also encompasses the significance of many other historic buildings in Adare including The Desmond Castle, The Abbeys of Adare including, The White Abbey, The Franciscan Abbey and The Black Abbey.

Interestingly, the book also tells the story of the purchase by JP and Noreen McManus of the Manor in 2014 and the fascinating redevelopment of the facility including photographs during construction and the completed product which will host the Ryder Cup in 2026. The book at €60 is not cheap, but if you are from Adare or are interested in history this is value for money. You can only buy it by visiting Adare Manor or online at [www.adaremanor.com](http://www.adaremanor.com)



Lady Catherine Brooke, Lady Geraldine Dunraven, Emma Thompson and Lady Ana Johnson at the book launch



Gillian Devlin, Marian Malone and Matt Kelly



Sharon Slater and Don Hawthorn also attended

## FASCINATING TIDBITS

■ The building of Adare Manor started in 1832 was one of the biggest projects of its kind ever undertaken in Ireland, taking 30 years.

■ Quae sursum volo videre, the Dunravens' Latin motto translates: "I wish to see what is beyond."

■ Windham Thomas Wyndham Quin, 4th Earl of Dunraven was a war correspondent for The Daily Telegraph and covered Britain's invasion of Abyssinia (Ethiopia).

■ The fascinating 4th Earl met up with the famous Buffalo Bill Cody in Nebraska and he helped him shoot his first wapiti stag which hung in The Gallery at Adare Manor

■ Adjacent Desmond Castle, on the banks of the Maigue and next to the original golf course was largely demolished on Oliver Cromwell's orders in 1657

■ Over the years many famous visitors stayed in Adare including the future King George V and Queen Mary...and of course in recent times US President Bill Clinton

■ "This charming spot was my home of unclouded happiness for 40 years; may Heaven's choicest blessings be poured with equal abundance on its present and future possessors!" Caroline, Countess of Dunraven, 1856

■ The colourful 4th Earl loved ocean life and in 1893 came close to winning the America's Cup with Valkyrie 11, losing out by just 40 seconds

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