

Seminar series No.29

## CASTLEWELLAN ARBORETUM

### The last great garden restoration?



Barcham Trees Presents

A seminar with

**Dr Matthew Jebb**

**Finola Reid**

**Keith Sacre**

**Hugh Morris**

**Seamus O'Brien**

**Malcolm Beatty**

**Aislinn O'Reilly**

**Dr Mark Johnston**

**A seminar at the Auditorium  
National Botanic Gardens,  
Glasnevin, Dublin**

**23rd April 2013**

*This event aims to highlight the heritage and botanical importance of Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Garden, located in Co. Down, Northern Ireland. We want to encourage everyone to work together for the much needed restoration of this internationally important tree collection. While the focus is on Castlewellan, the varied programme from distinguished speakers will appeal to all those interested in remarkable trees and heritage landscapes. Please come and show your support.*

→ The day will be **FREE OF CHARGE** with lunch included

Places are limited to 120 so register NOW!

Contact: Natasha Hutchison  
Email: [natasha@barchamtrees.co.uk](mailto:natasha@barchamtrees.co.uk)

Tel: 01353 720748 Mob: 07738 457704  
Book online:  
[www.barcham.co.uk/CastlewellanGlasnevin](http://www.barcham.co.uk/CastlewellanGlasnevin)

→ [www.barcham.co.uk](http://www.barcham.co.uk) or call 01353 720748

## Seminar Programme

Chair for the day: Dr Mark Johnston

10.00 – 10.10 **Introduction and welcome to the seminar**  
Dr Mark Johnston, Research Fellow, Myerscough College

10.10 – 10.50 **The Arboretum of the Future – a global perspective**  
Dr Matthew Jebb, Director, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

10.50 – 11.30 **18th and 19th Century Arboreta in Ireland**  
Finola Reid, Historic Gardens Consultant, Dublin

11.30 – 12.00 **Arboreta and their Potential for Propagation Material**  
Keith Sacre, Sales Director, Barcham Trees

12.00 – 12.40 **Castlewellan's Tree Collection and its Management**  
Hugh Morris, Lecturer in Arboriculture, Plumpton College

12.40 – 13.30 LUNCH (provided courtesy of Barcham Trees)

13.30 – 14.10 **The work of Arboretum Regeneration Castlewellan (ARC)**  
Aislinn O'Reilly, Chairperson, ARC

14.10 – 14.50 **Castlewellan Arboretum:  
The Northern Ireland Forest Service Perspective**  
Malcolm Beatty, Chief Executive of the NI Forest Service

14.50 – 15.50 **Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens: The Arboretum  
and its Recent Restoration**  
Seamus O'Brien, Head Gardener, Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens

15.50 – 16.00 **Summary and Concluding Remarks**  
Dr Mark Johnston, Research Fellow, Myerscough College

16.00 DEPART



**Tree Council**  
*of Ireland*



**Dr Matthew Jebb**

Director, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin

Matthew took over the directorship of the National Botanic Gardens having been Keeper of the Herbarium and Taxonomist (Ainmneoir Plandai) there since 1998. He gained his primary degree in Botany at Oxford University, where he also pursued his PhD on the *Tuber morphology and taxonomy of the rubiaceae Ant-Plants*. Following this Matthew returned to Papua New Guinea where he had conducted his research for his PhD and was made Director of the Christensen Research Institute from 1987 to 1993. In 2005, Matthew was nominated by Ireland as the European vice-president on the bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This role culminated at the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006. Matthew is currently Chairman of PlantNetwork.



**Finola Reid**

Historic Gardens Consultant, Dublin

Finola is a gardens consultant specialising in conservation and restoration projects in historic gardens and demesnes throughout Ireland. She trained in the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, where she worked for over thirteen years before becoming a freelance consultant. In 1994, she was appointed Manager of the ERDF funded 'Great Gardens of Ireland Restoration Programme'. Finola was a presenter and contributor over many years for RTE, BBC and Channel 4 programmes. She is a past Chairperson of the Irish Garden Plant Society and member of the Heritage Council (2005-2010) which she represented on the board of the Irish Architectural Archive and on the steering committee of the NIAH 'Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes'. She is still involved in the NIAH gardens inventory and was recently appointed to the Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Committee. Finola has known Castlewellan Arboretum for over forty years and recognises it as a hugely important historical site with a notable plant collection.



**Keith Sacre**

Sales Director, Barcham Trees plc, Cambridgeshire

Keith has over 20 years of experience in local government as nursery, parks and operations manager. He then spent 11 years with Notcutt's Nurseries with responsibility for tree sales to local authorities and other trade outlets. He is now Sales Director with Barcham Trees, the largest container tree nursery in Europe. Keith is a member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and a Chartered Arboriculturist. He is also a Trustee of the Arboricultural Association and Tree Advice Trust. He has extensive international experience and has published numerous articles on various aspects of arboriculture and tree management.



## Seminar Series No. 29 Profiles

### **Hugh Morris**

Lecturer in Arboriculture, Plumpton College, East Sussex

Hugh was born and raised in Westport on the west coast of Ireland. He was influenced by his Grandfather, Hugh Morris, and his Uncle, also Hugh, both keen horticulturists. Hugh began a three year under-graduate horticultural course in amenity horticulture, which was followed by a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture at Myerscough College in the northwest of England, where he specialised in woody plants. Encouraged by his love for systematics, Hugh then enrolled on an MSc programme entitled Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants at the University of Edinburgh. His employment history includes: Hillier's tree nursery; RHS Wisley; RBG Kew; Evenleywood Gardens, Northamptonshire; and three years as a Tree Officer for Test Valley Borough Council. He now lectures in arboriculture at Plumpton College, East Sussex. Hugh is a Fellow of the Linnean Society, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a member of the International Dendrology Society.



### **Aislinn O'Reilly**

Chairperson, Arboretum Regeneration Castlewellan (ARC)

Aislinn O'Reilly was born in Belfast and grew up in Castlewellan, County Down beside the Forest Park and the Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Garden. Following school, she attended Queen's University, Belfast, gaining an Honours Degree in English Language and Literature. Subsequent years have been spent working in the Health Service, bringing up a family and teaching English, currently at Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry. In June 2009, she established Arboretum Regeneration Castlewellan, (ARC), along with friends and colleagues, Fiona Barr and Geraldine Malone, and a group of dedicated volunteers. ARC has campaigned since that time to raise the profile of this magnificent place and to ensure its restoration as one of the foremost arboreta in Europe.



### **Malcolm Beatty**

Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Forest Service

The NI Forest Service is an Executive Agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Malcolm is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and has over 30 years' experience in forestry. That experience includes direct responsibility for Castlewellan Forest and its arboretum as District Forest Officer from 1985 to 1989, and as Chief Executive from 1998 to 2006 and since returning to the Northern Ireland Forest Service in 2011.



**Seamus O'Brien**

Head Gardener, Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

Seamus O'Brien is Ireland's leading authority on plants from the temperate regions of China. His travels in pursuit of plants have taken him across Nepal, China, California, Chile, New Zealand, Australia and Tasmania, effectively 'in the footsteps of Augustine Henry' on a number of expeditions. He has won several awards in recognition of his expertise, including two Christopher Brickell Prizes (for his reports *Autumn in the Eastern Himalaya* 1996, and *In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry – An Expedition to China*, 2004) and two awards granted by the RHS Bursary Committee. Many of his most recent introductions can be found in Irish gardens. Seamus is also a regular contributor to *The Irish Garden*, among other publications, and currently manages Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens, an eighteenth century country estate belonging to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, near Dublin



**Dr Mark Johnston**

Research Fellow in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Myerscough College, Preston

Mark is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, a Chartered Arboriculturist, and Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture. He has 40 years' experience working with trees in the public, private and voluntary sectors. He has initiated several major urban forestry projects in Britain and Ireland and has extensive international experience. He was the main author of the UK government's 2008 report entitled *Trees in Towns II* and has acted as an advisor on urban tree management to the European Commission. In 2007, Mark was appointed MBE in recognition of his services to trees and the urban environment. In 2009, he became the first British person to receive the Award of Merit from the International Society of Arboriculture, the highest honour it can bestow for services to arboriculture and urban forestry. In 2011, he received the Arboricultural Association's Annual Award for services to arboriculture. Mark's home has been in Belfast for the past twenty years and he is a frequent visitor to Castlewellan Arboretum.



**Additional Information**

For directions to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, go to: [www.botanicgardens.ie/educ/gettingthere.htm](http://www.botanicgardens.ie/educ/gettingthere.htm)

If you want to support the work of ARC, please contact Fiona Barr, Secretary, at: [arccastlewellan@gmail.com](mailto:arccastlewellan@gmail.com)