

ITINERARY

Day One: Flight from Heathrow at 11:05am to Shannon, Co. Clare
By private coach to Thoor Ballylee, readings & discussion
On to Maldron Hotel, Oranmore
Lecture and discussion on Lady Gregory, Yeats and their circle
Dinner at hotel

Day Two: Visit Kiltartan Gregory Museum
Visit Coole Park
Light lunch at Coole
Transfer by Coach to Co. Sligo
Stay at Castle Dargan 4* Hotel
Pre-dinner round-up, discussion and questions
Dinner in hotel

Day Three: Lecture on Yeats and his Co. Sligo connections
Visit Yeats Society Centre, Sligo Town
Visit Lissadell House
Readings and discussion
Light lunch
Visit to Rosses Point
Round-up of the day
Dinner at Limoncello Restaurant, Sligo Town

Day Four: Round-up of the tour and final talk
Visit Drumcliffe and Yeats' grave ('Under Ben Bulben')
Light lunch at nearby Yeats Tavern
Travel to Knock Town and free time
Transfer to Knock (West of Ireland) Airport, Co. Mayo
for return flight at 19.55 arriving at London
Gatwick at 21.15

- Programme to include readings, lectures & discussions
- Time also for participants to make independent explorations and evening arrangements if they wish.
- Alternative flight arrangements can be made but transfers may not be included

TOUR DETAILS

Location: West of Ireland, Co. Galway and Co. Sligo
Dates: 5th - 8th September, 2016
Duration: 4 days, 3 nights
Price: Single - £440; Double - £385 p.p.
Deposit: £220
Capacity: 16

Included: Three nights' accommodation; breakfasts; two dinners; entrance fees; transport in private coach; pre-tour introductory lecture; accompanying expert.
Excluded: Flights; travel insurance; other meals.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE:

To be held on 15th June, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Guildford Institute, GU1 4LH.

- A brief introduction to Yeats, his poetry, and his Anglo-Irish inheritance.
- A suggested reading list will be provided.

STUDY TOUR LEADER – Dr Chris Joyce

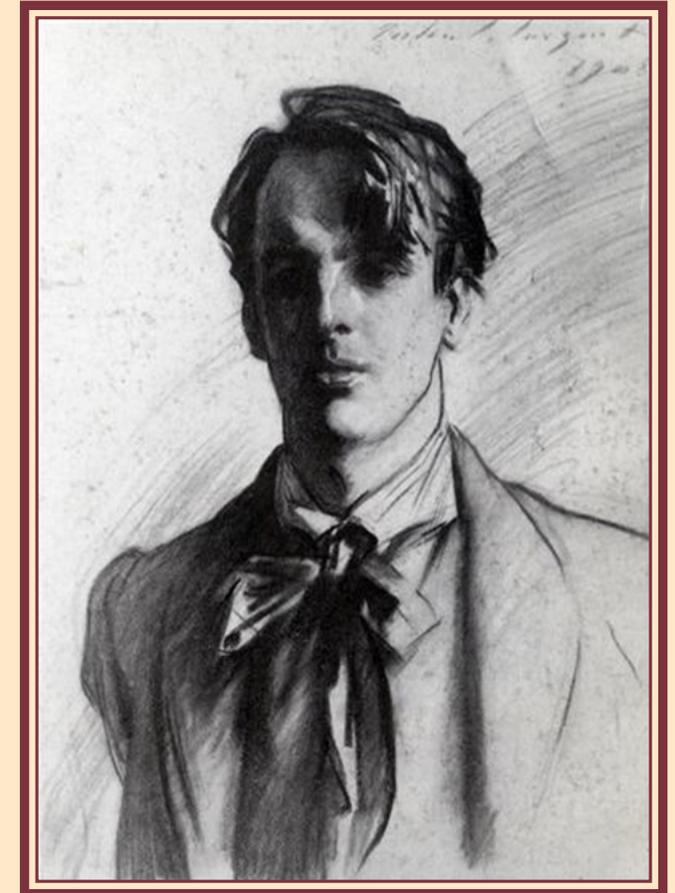
Chris has a long-established interest in Yeats and the Modernist era and in Anglo-Irish history. He took his PhD in the literary criticism of the inter-war period at the University of Reading following a first degree at Cambridge and subsequently taught at Reading and at the University of Surrey. The Yeats tour builds on one he has conducted for Surrey University alumni and on lectures and presentations given at the university and elsewhere.

For further information about the tour and booking details, please contact **Nicky Merry** (the tour convenor):
nmerry@hotmail.com or **01243 776135** or **07966 236197**

*“Think where man’s glory most
begins and ends, and say my glory
was I had such friends.”*

YEATS’S IRELAND: A LITERARY TOUR

Monday 5th - Thursday 8th September, 2016



*W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)
by John Singer Sargent, 1908*

2016 sees the centenary of the republican uprising in Dublin, an event which Yeats commemorated in one of his most well-known poems, 'Easter, 1916'. The study tour will look at the wide range of Yeats's poetic interests, including many of the people, places and landscapes he loved in Ireland and at his complex Anglo-Irish inheritance.



*Augusta, Lady Gregory
by Antonio Mancini (1908)*

The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin

*'Greatest since Rembrandt',
according to John Synge...*

*But where is the brush that could show anything
Of all that pride and that humility?*

('The Municipal Gallery Revisited', 1937)

An important figure in the Irish literary revival, Lady Gregory (1852-1932) first met Yeats in 1896 and subsequently invited him many times to her home, Coole Park, in Co. Galway - a few miles from the Tower at Ballylee.



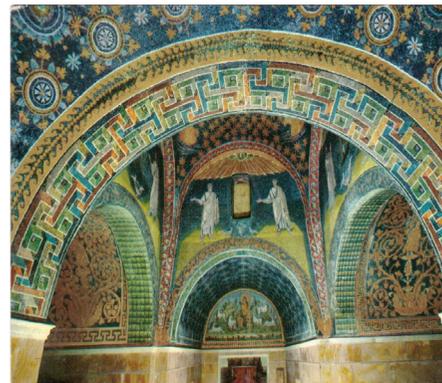
The Wild Swans at Coole

Here he joined the company of writers and artists whose work and influence he would commemorate for the rest of his life. The house at Coole has long since gone but the park and woodland, and the lake on which Yeats saw the wild swans, remain in their lovely solitude a place for peaceful reflection.



*Here, traveller, scholar, poet, take your stand
When all those rooms and passages are gone,
When nettles wave upon a shapeless mound
And saplings root among the broken stone,
And dedicate - eyes bent upon the ground,
Back turned upon the brightness of the sun
And all the sensuality of the shade -
A moment's memory to that laurelled head.
(From 'Coole Park, 1929')*

In 1907 Yeats visited Ravenna with Lady Gregory to see the Byzantine mosaic work in the Basilica of San Vitale and other sites. He had long been interested in Byzantine civilisation and would visit further sites in Italy in the 1920s. The outcome would be two of his greatest poems, 'Sailing to Byzantium' (1927) and 'Byzantium' (1930).



Mausoleum of Galla Placidia -Ravenna

A cultivated and travelled lady, Augusta Gregory had entertained some of the major Victorian figures, such as Tennyson and Browning, with her husband, Sir William Gregory, at their London home in the 1880s. She was well acquainted with Italian literature and culture before she met the young poet Yeats and also encouraged his interest in Italian Renaissance art and literature.

Another Anglo-Irish country house which Yeats commemorated is Lissadell in Co. Sligo, home of the Gore-Booth family. Memories of the sisters he met there, both of whom became, to his dismay, involved in Irish republican politics, are celebrated in his poem, 'In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markievicz' (1927):

*The light of evening, Lissadell,
Great windows open to the south,
Two girls in silk kimonos, both
Beautiful, one a gazelle...*



The Gore-Booth sisters, Eva and Constance, 1895



Lissadell House

After a long legal wrangle concerning rights of way, the austere beautiful Georgian house is once again open to the public and will be included in the tour. Yeats's grave in the churchyard at Drumcliffe is a short distance away.