

# THE MAGIC OF CURRAREVAGH HOUSE

*Written by Jack McCann*

Currarevagh House on Glann Road, Oughterard, was built by the present owner's great, great, great, great grandfather in 1842. His family came from a mining background in the North of England. Towards the end of the 17th Century, Henry William Hodgson moved to Arklow and commenced mining for lead in County Wicklow.

After angling and shooting trips to Connemara, he decided to prospect for copper along the Hill of Doon and found it! He also discovered lead outside Oughterard and then moved to Galway, buying a large house in Merlin park from the Blake family. He wanted to be closer to the mines and so he moved to Currarevagh, to an early 18th century house about a hundred metres from the present house which was then owned by the O'Flahertys – the largest clan in Connacht. The story goes that he won the house and 28,000 acres in a game of cards! As the mining developed, steamers took the ore to Galway on Lough Corrib and returned with goods and passengers.

With the collapse of the world market in mining, and with the present Currarevagh House just having been built in 1842, the family switched to farming trout and turf production – inventing the turf briquette in the process. By 1890, Currarevagh House was being run as a sporting lodge for fishing and shooting for paying guests with holiday packages being organised from London. The current family have documents to suggest that it is the oldest guest house in Ireland in continuous family ownership.

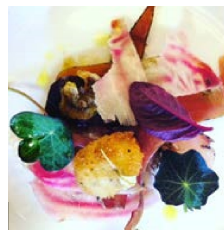
After the Civil War the house was protected by a local IRA cell because the family had helped famine victims as much as they could, and indeed there is a famine graveyard on their property.

Today Currarevagh House is run by Henry Hodgson and his wife Lucy who is the excellent chef. Henry's father, Harry, retired in 2007 after nearly 40 years, being ably assisted by his wife June who is still involved in the business. Whereas previously 50% of its guests came for

sporting activities, today it is only 3%. Currarevagh House is now renowned as a sanctuary – as a haven of peace, tranquillity and delicious food. It uses local produce and employs 14 staff, mostly from the Glann Road, and is also open to non-residents for dinner at 8PM each evening.

It has recently been awarded The Best Small Hotel in Galway on Trip Advisor and is in the top ten for service in Ireland. It has also been given The National Breakfast Award by the well known food critic Georgina Campbell and is in Ireland's prestigious Blue Book. The house is open from March to the end of October and by special arrangement at other times. For those interested in outdoor activities there are many lovely walks around the 188 acre lakeside property and boats are available for rowing.

The Magic of Currarevagh will draw you back time and time again!



## **Currarevagh House, Glann Road, Oughterard**

*Situated 6kms out the Glann Road, Currarevagh House has been welcoming guests to Oughterard for over 125 years, offering an oasis of privacy and comfort on our 180 acre lake shore estate. Dinner each evening is a highlight, serving 4 courses using the best of regional and local produce on an ever changing set menu. Non residents are always most welcome by advanced booking. Private parties and small groups can also be catered for subject to availability.*

Phone: **091 552312** Email: **roomsecurrarevagh.com** Website: **www.currarevagh.com**

Tripadvisor Traveller's Choice Top 10 Small Hotels in Ireland 2018, 2017, 2016  
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