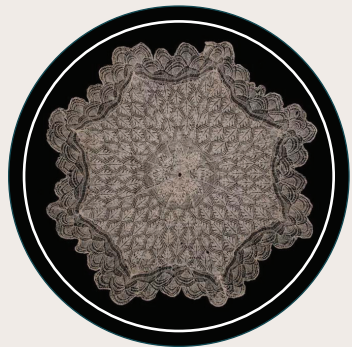


EXPLORE OUR GARDENS IN
**DONERAILE
ESTATE**

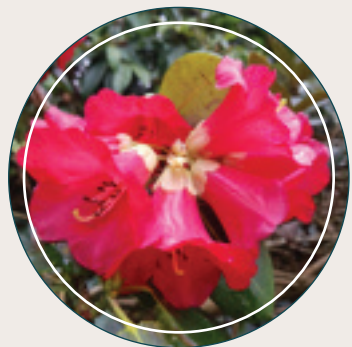


While you are here visit the fine Georgian home of the St Legers, Doneraile Court

There are over 400 acres of parkland to roam and spot the deer, squirrels, otters, and heron and explore the majestic ancient trees, fishponds, tracks and trails.



A lace parasol gifted by Lady Doneraile in 1855 from the fibres of nasturtium in thanks to Sir William Hooker, Director of Kew.



It is intended to replant a section of woodland to the South of the house with Sikkim Rhododendrons to reflect the strong link that Doneraile Estate had with Sir William Hooker, curator of Kew Gardens, during the nineteenth century.



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...sat in the orangery at Doneraile on a hot, wet afternoon, 'inhaling the smell of the tube roses, listening to the rattle of the rain upon the glass roof, listening to the gentler tinkling of the fountain as it splashed among the ferns'

– Harold Nicholson



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In 1825 the 3rd Viscount Doneraile (second creation) commissioned the Orangery, a nine bay single storey building known in style as Strawberry Gothic. Indeed there was a family tradition of each member contributing in some measure to the presentation and delight of the Pleasure Grounds and gardens. Over a 28-year period Lady Doneraile (May), the Viscount's daughter-in-law, in communication with the Director of Ken, William Jackson Hooker received many exotic plants. The ornamental pool was used to maintain high humidity for such plants as orchids, rhododendrons and ferns.

1 Pleasure Grounds: Historically, the pleasure grounds extended to approximately 15 acres and would have included a woodland garden, or Forest Garden, whale bone arch and *Cottage Ornee*. In 1810 the Reverend Horatio Wilson remarks that "Nor are the present noble owners of this truly beautiful residence less indebted to his consort, [3rd Consort], the late Lady Doneraile, a woman of most superior understanding, whose taste and judgement were happily directed to the embellishment of the pleasure grounds."

The pleasure grounds as we see it today, would have been laid out in the nineteenth century and would have included 6 large mixed borders of ornamental planting along with 8 cubes of Evergreen Quincox's, five hedging plants grown to form a large cube. This would have been a private area for the owners to spend their leisure time and host parties. The walls of the *orangery* are still standing and would have been used to grow some of the award winning flowers that were associated with Lady Castletown.



2. Gardener's Cottages



1. Doneraile Court



2. Parterre Garden

4. Chusanpalm Trees

- 2 Entry to the Parterre Garden:** The parterre Garden is an intricate pattern of Box-Hedging as the focal point. On the South-facing walls is still the footings of an old glasshouse that would have been used to grow tender varieties of fruits, like peaches or nectarines.
- 3 The Pinery-Vinery** was a three-partitioned glass house that was used for growing Pineapples & grapes for the house. The vines were grown with their roots outside and the stems pulled into the glass house to be trained up wires, where they provided shade for the pineapples. If you look closely, there is still a hole in the wall where the rods would have been pulled into the glass house. The pineapple was long associated with luxury & opulence, as well as a display of the gardener's skill.
- 4 The American Garden:** Planting in the American Garden was mostly ornamental to display the recent discoveries from 'The New World'. The only survivor from this era is a *Catalpa bignonioides* (Indian Bean Tree) that is leaning over in the garden. The Northern wall would

have been 'flued' or heated to increase the yield of more tender crops and protect the tender crops from late spring frosts. The Hot wall was also an insurance policy to guarantee a crop if the temperatures dropped drastically. A fire was lit on the rear side of the wall and the heat travelled through the cavities in the wall and the red brick would have retained the heat for a longer period.

- 5 Walled Garden:** The 'Top Garden' was also part of the nineteenth century improvements to the wider estate. The current glass house structure that stands is dated from 1907, but prior to this there would have been a double span glass house erected. Later on, this garden became an important revenue stream for Lady Castletown, growing foliage, fruit & flowers for markets to supplement the income of the estate.