



YOUR EXCLUSIVE COUNTRY HOUSE

WEDDING



ROCKHILL
HOUSE



THE ROCKHILL STORY

ROCKHILL House can trace its roots to the 17th Century plantation of Ulster. Seat of the **Chambers** family for 172 years, the property was acquired in 1832 by the aristocratic ornithologist, **John Vandeleur Stewart**. Stewart engaged famed Dublin architect, **John Hargrave**, to design a radical extension and remodelling of the house, and the new owner carried out comprehensive draining, planting and cultivation of the lands to create the lush, Georgian idyll that remained in his family until the 1936 break-up of the Estate and sale of the property and 100 acres to the Commissioner of Public Works.

A headquarters of the **Irish Defence Forces** through to early 2009, the Army's exit began a period of vacancy that allowed Rockhill House to slip into disrepair and decay. The Estate, too, was a shadow of what it was during its days of care and plenty under the Stewarts.

When today's owners, **the Molloy family**, got the keys in 2014, a vast task met them. When they first stepped into the house, it was possible to stand in the basement and see the roof, three storeys above!

This began a two-year labour of love for the Molloys, whose sensitive restoration, while being true to



Rockhill's rich past, now takes it into a great new heyday. Once again, the great halls and galleries of the Big House are filled with light and the colours and textures of its Georgian tastemakers.

Original features – from cornices, ceiling roses, and spiral staircases to picture rails, ironwork and fireplaces – have been salvaged where possible, and historically replicated wherever the original has been lost to time. The Estate is springing back to life, with verdant gardens adorned with Temple and fountain; and lost woodland walks uncovered for new exploration.

And it is here that you find us – at the start of an exciting new chapter for this special place. A chapter that will be written by you in **Rockhill's Era of Warmth and Welcome!**

YOUR WEDDING AT ROCKHILL

At Rockhill, each wedding is unique. Individual quotes are prepared based on our initial personal consultation with you. The consultation is an opportunity for you as a couple to put forward your ideas and dreams, and to discuss your choices and preferences.

It is also a chance to soak up the unique atmosphere here and to consider the possibilities of some of Rockhill's amazing, varied spaces!

In turn, the consultation allows us to become attuned to your vision and to begin forming a plan that chimes with that vision.

This brochure should hopefully give you a good idea of our services and provide some useful starting points for conversation.





YOUR WEDDING DAY EVE!

There is such a special, buzzing mood when close friends and family gather together on the night before the wedding.

You might like to welcome a small group for an intimate drinks reception in the elegant but ever so cosy Library Bar.

Or perhaps a hearty dinner in the Chambers dining room would have a strong appeal - ensuring that the energy is stacked for the big day ahead!

WEDDING DAY

If we can help at all with morning preparations, we'd be very glad to. Whether it's a button that needs sewing or a booking for hair and make-up artists that needs made, you need only ask. You might like to



have the bridal party assemble at the foot of the main spiralling staircase to meet the bride. Everyone watching upwards... a ceremonious descent - it's quite the introduction!

If you would like guests to gather for canapés ahead of the ceremony, the resplendent Main Hall is an ideal location. It's a beautiful space, where you can really feel the excitement gather in the air and ripple through the galleries!

CEREMONY

Your civil ceremony can take place in the house or perhaps even on the lawn. If you are planning a church wedding, there are many nearby, including the striking St Eunan's Cathedral, which dominates the skyline as you look down across the river from the front of the house.

RECEPTION

The Main Hall is ideal for your drinks reception - a grand and festive setting that offers the perfect sense of occasion under the immense, shimmering chandelier and with a captivating party acoustic provided by mighty high ceilings and plush panelled walls. Or you might choose to meet your guests with champagne on the lawns, or by the fountain.

WEDDING FEAST

You might be considering an intimate, elegant dinner for 38 in the gold and silver Chambers dining room, a great formal feast for 140 in the epic Orangerie, a more informal buffet or a relaxed barbeque – the choice is yours. Whatever your preference, you'll find the perfect venue and menu among the many options here at Rockhill.

THE PARTY

The Orangerie is the ultimate party location (among many greats!) at Rockhill. With a warm wood floor that's made for the click of dancing shoes and its light-filled glass facade providing, by night, a canopy of starlight – it doesn't get any more atmospheric! The Orangerie opens out on to a rugged grey, heather-clad rockface from which our natural mountain spring flows; and leads on round to the elegant formal gardens and rushing fountain. So, in good weather, the wonderful outdoors very naturally joins in the festivities.

WEDDING NIGHT

The Vandeleur Suite will be your Bridal oasis for the duration of your residence at Rockhill. The suite is named after John



Vandeleur Stewart (1804-1872), who was the most prominent private owner of Rockhill. Stewart extensively renovated and enhanced the house in the early 19th century and the glimmering Delft blues and crisp forest greens that accent the radiant, romantic design of this spacious and elegant suite are a nod to his aesthetic finesse and Dutch merchant family connections. The telescope by the bright panelled window that gazes over the riverside town alludes to the man's great occupation of ornithology (explored in more detail in the artworks and the extracts from his scholarly writings that adorn these walls).

The Donegal night sky is beyond romantic – you've never seen stars like this.



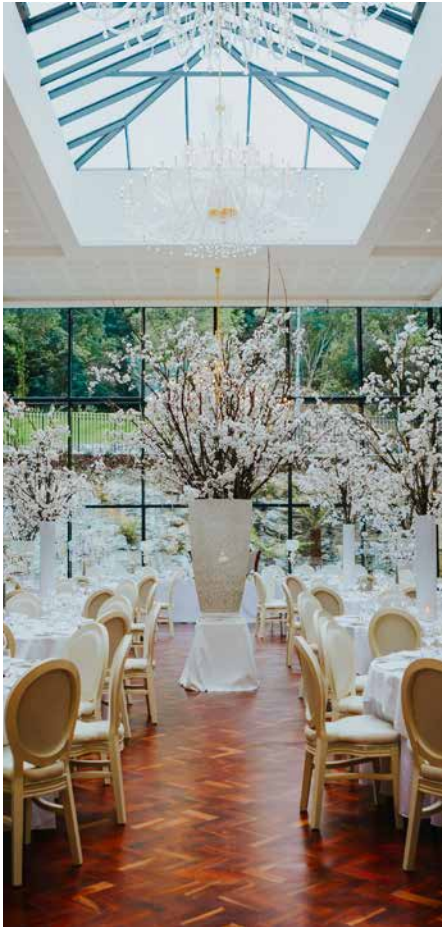
THE FOLLOWING DAY

Everything should be at your absolute leisure on the day after your wedding - if ever there was a day for basking, this is it! Why not avail of our next day package and indulge in a late lunch in the Chambers dining room... Later, you might like to drift out for a picnic lunch on the lawn, or a lazy afternoon barbecue in the market yard. We can lay on activities for those who like to pack in plenty; and if you want to wind down in the evening with a soothing supper in the Chambers dining room, followed by board games and short drinks in the Library Bar, all can be arranged!



FACILITIES

- **Five** reception rooms
- **19 bedrooms** (Three suites, Six Junior Suites, 10 Cosy Guest Rooms)
- **Dining options** include The Orangerie (140 guests) and the Chambers dining room (38 guests)...
- **Gardens:** The formal garden – with its lush greenery, fountain and stone sculptures – sweeps upwards to the Temple and onwards to the walled garden and 100 acres of mature woodlands.
- **Activities:** From croquet on the lawn to clay pigeon shooting, and from golf to hill-walking, a wide variety of activities can be provided on or off site.
- **Entertainment:** We have strong links with a wide range of musicians, performers and cultural providers and our expert team will be happy to make recommendations in keeping with your taste and plans.
- **Little luxuries:** For those who want to enjoy evenings outdoors under the stars, we provide blankets and atmospheric lighting to keep you comfortable.
- **Banqueting:** At Rockhill we offer impeccable service, complete with finest cutlery, candelabras, glassware, white beech upholstered chairs and quality crisp table linens.
- **Transport and accommodation:** We can provide a list of nearby accommodation for those not staying at Rockhill. Coach or taxi transfer can be arranged.



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COMPLIMENTARY EXTRAS...

At Rockhill House we are delighted to offer our wedding couples:

- Personal planning meetings with a member of our dedicated wedding events team
- Champagne arrival for the wedding couple
- Use of the Rockhill House sword to cut the wedding cake
- Wedding cake stand
- Personalised menu
- Candelabras on all tables
- Use of PA system for all speeches
- Table numbers and stand
- Fires throughout the house (seasonal)
- Free onsite car parking

CONTACT US

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