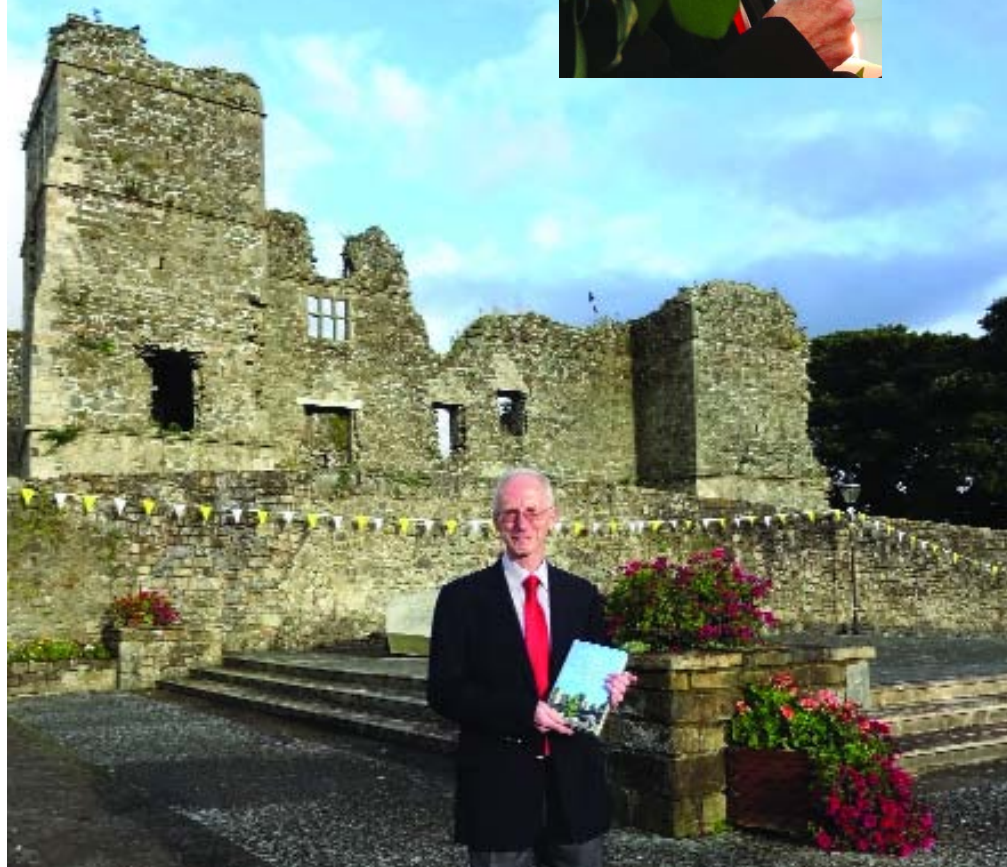


Sir Frederick Returns

Margaret Connolly

FOR ALMOST four centuries the imposing structure of Manorhamilton Castle has looked imperiously over the town it spawned. Within its walls no trace remained of its companies of soldiers or its commanding officer. However, all that changed on Friday September 13th when Manorhamilton & District Historical Society, with the consent and generosity of the present owners Tony and Maura Daly, hosted the launch of *'The Life and Times of Sir Frederick Hamilton 1590 -1647'*, a book in which the author, Dominic Rooney, has invested twenty years of painstaking research. The vast audience of historians, writers, public representatives and, most importantly, residents of the town, were treated to a night of variety and surprises.

The scene was set when four senior citizens of Castle Street, Nan Gilgunn, Patsy Ferguson, Kathleen Dolan and Frank Meehan (representing Lily Holland) lit candles to mark this 'Moment in Time'. Tony Daly then unveiled a portrait of Sir Frederick, recently discovered in England and never before seen in Ireland. The formal speakers, Michael Potterton from the publishers, Four Courts Press, Bryan Smyth of Leitrim Development Company, Dominic Rooney, the author and Professor Raymond Gillespie of NUI Maynooth, who launched the book, were introduced by Oliver Haslette,



Chairman of the Historical Society. Unexpected guests arrived in the persons of Sir Frederick (Darragh Heraghty) and his lady wife, Sidney, (Sheila Mc Nulty) to perform a captivating sketch, written and directed by Prin Duignan. The banquet, prepared by Sal Dolan, was of royal standard and as the guests took their

leave, they stood in groups to admire the ancient ruins so imaginatively lighted on the night by Bernie Mc Gauran, Manorhamilton & District Historical Society wish to thank all those who attended the launch and to pay tribute to the author, Dominic Rooney, a loyal son of Manorhamilton.

