



On **Saturday, 2 April from 1 to 3pm** UCD colleagues and their families are invited to climb Lyons Hill in support of the Climb with Charlie event to raise funds for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA) and Pieta, Ireland’s national suicide prevention charity. This family friendly event will comprise a circular walk of 3.4km. Please [register](#) you intention to attend.

There is no charge for the event, but you are kindly asked to consider supporting the Climb with Charlie event and associated charities, through this [donation link](#).

Direction to Lyons Farm

Lyons Farm is situated in Co. Kildare, 35kms to the west of the main UCD Belfield Campus. Lyons straddles the Kildare / Dublin border 6km from the village of Celbridge in Kildare and 3km from the village of Newcastle in Dublin. Using the Eircode **W23ENY2** in most GPS systems will guide you directly to Lyons Farm.

Walking route

The walk will be anticlockwise starting and ending in the Farmyard and of about 3.4km in length. Some of the sights will include the old church and castle, Lyons House, lands of Lyons Estate, Plain of Kildare, Round monuments on the top and side of Lyons Hill, research and teaching grazing systems for sustainable agriculture.



How the funds raised will be utilized by chosen charities

IMNDA plan to provide their clients and their families with a dedicated Respite Centre, as a means of providing a much-needed break for their clients and their carers in a “home from home” setting to be called “The Bird House”. Nurse led care in a pleasant, tranquil environment, away from home provides the opportunity for some “time out” in a relaxed atmosphere to allow relationships rekindle, friendships made and renewed and simply time to reflect and re-energise. Everyone needs a break – those with Motor Neurone Disease even more so.

Pieta is very pleased to announce the creation of The Charlie Bird Crisis Intervention Fund supporting clients in suicidal crisis. The creation of this intervention fund will ensure that the funds raised through the ‘Climb with Charlie’ campaign will have a lasting impact in communities throughout Ireland. The fund will play a vital role in preventing the heartache and devastation caused by suicide and self-harm

Present day UCD Lyons Farm

- 606 acres
- Dairy (200 milking cows), Sheep (350 ewes), Goats, Horses, Pigs Chickens, Crops Environment
- Teaching and Research
- Also commercial agriculture, building partnerships, serving the community, UCD’s green credentials
- Laboratories, Offices, Teaching & meeting rooms, AgTech UCD (c/o NovaUCD)
- Ranking – UCD Veterinary Science 23 in world (QS) – Agricultural Science 24 in world (US News & World Report)

Short history of UCD Lyons Farm

- The name derives from the Irish language name for an elm tree, Liamhan
- 750-1050 AD - Lyons Hill, inauguration site and royal seat for kings of Leinster
- Middle Ages – Tyrell family got possession of Lyons in the Middle Ages
There was a medieval village with church (1350), graveyard and gatehouse
- 1400 - Around 1400 Helen Tyrrell married John Aylmer.
Aylmers later acquired the Barony of Cloncurry (2,449 acres) in North-East Kildare
- 1612 – Lyons hamlet was burnt, and Lyons Castle was burnt in the late 1600’s and never rebuilt
- 1600s Aylmers survived the Plantations of Ireland and Cromwell invasion and Jacobite rising – they were Catholic but were brought up and educated as Protestants.
- 1770’s - Michael Aylmer became indebted to the banker Sir Nicholas Lawless eventually selling Lyons Estate and his lands to him. N Lawless became the 1st Barron of Cloncurry in 1789.
- 1785 - Sir Nicholas Lawless built Lyons House 1785 to 1797
- 1929 - 5th Baron of Cloncurry (Frederick Lawless) died without children (title of Baron ended) and left the Estate to his niece Kathleen Lawless who when she died in 1957 bequeathed the remaining property to a cousin, G. M. V. Winn.
- 1962 - UCD purchased Lyons Estate in 1962 from the Winn family, the purchase consisted of Lyons House and approximately 1,200 acres (485 ha) of land.
- 1990 - The University sold Lyons House and about half the land area.
- 1996 - Ryanair businessman Tony Ryan (1936 - 2007) bought Lyons House (£3.5 million) and undertook an extensive renovation to Lyons House to return it to its former splendour (over £80 million)

Longer History of Lyons Estate

750-1050 - Lyons Hill, was the inauguration site for (members of one of three septs of the Uí Dúnlainge dynasty which rotated) the kingship of Leinster between 750 and 1050, after which the family became Normanised as the FitzDermots. In that period 10 Uí Dúinchada Kings of Leinster established their base at Lyons

Lyons Hill was one of the early royal seats and public assembly places of the kingdom of Leinster, and later chief seat of the Mac Giolla Mo-Cholmógs of Uí Dúnlainge.

There is an oval area (monument) on top of Lyons Hill with a trigonometric point erected in the centre. There is also a circular area, defined by a broad low earthen bank at the foot of North side of Lyons Hill

The name derives from the Irish language name for an elm tree, Liamhan

1274 – the earliest record of Lyons Estate in the ownership of the Tyrell family. The Tyrells got possession of Lyons in the Middle Ages,

1350 - Lyons church, now a mausoleum for the Lawless family, was constructed around 1350

1400 - Around 1400 Helen Tyrrell married John Aylmer

1558 – In 1558 the Earl of Ormonde and Ossory gave Richard Aylmer of Lyons the entire Barony of Cloncurry, a large property in north east Kildare

1612 - Gatehouse or Castle and Parish Church (& burial vault) and graveyard - It is recorded that, '(Lyons) Formerly contained a hamlet of the same name, which in 1612 was burned by Government troops (Another source says that the original Lyons House and town were burned in 1641 on the orders of Lord Justice). Graves date from 19th and 20th century but the oldest headstone in Lyons churchyard dates to 1693, dedicated to Edmond Moore and his son James.

1600s - In the 17th century the Aylmers, as Catholics, had a precarious existence during this period of political unrest. Oliver Cromwell eradicated most of the Catholics of Leinster but the Aylmers escaped, which was no doubt due to the influence of the Ormondes. By order of Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Aylmer was to be brought up as an English Protestant and was educated at Trinity College Dublin. Thomas remained a Catholic despite all these efforts and married a Catholic. He had 5,000 acres of land when he died in 1639. He is buried at Lyons.

In 1641, following Thomas' death most of his property passed to his brother, George Aylmer, although his wife, Mabel, retained ownership of Lyons Castle, which was subsequently burned down by the Earl of Ormonde. The old castle was never rebuilt.

1688 - During the Jacobite rising from 1688 and 1746 the Aylmers took the side of James II (deposed in 1688 and the last Catholic monarch of England, Scotland, and Ireland – losing to William of Orange at the battle of the Boyne in 1690) and following his defeat they avoided having their lands at Lyons confiscated, but other branches of the family lost property.

1733 - Michael Aylmer inherited Lyons Estate at the age of four in 1733 – He married 3 times and squandered his wives' doweries and his own assets

1772 - Michael Aylmer became one of the directors of the Grand Canal Company and Aylmer bridge is called after him. He became indebted to the banker Sir Nicholas Lawless (later Baron of Cloncurry)

eventually selling Lyons Estate and his lands at Cloncurry to Sir Nicholas for around £40,000. Michael Aylmer died in Brussels in 1808

1700s - Sir Nicholas Lawless (1733-1799) His family were originally turf sellers from the Wicklow hills that became successful wool merchants and later bankers. Nicholas turned Protestant, bought Lyons Estate, supported the idea of the Union, was Member of Parliament for Lifford 1776-89, and became first Baron of Cloncurry in 1789.

1785 - Sir Nicholas Lawless commissioned architect Oliver Grace to build a "grand Georgian mansion" in 1785, and it was completed in 1797 but died in 1799.

1799 - Valentine Brown Lawless (1773 -1853), who became the 2nd Baron of Cloncurry, Lord Valentine, on his father's death, was the most accomplished of the family members and the creator of Lyons Estate as it is known today. He spent £200,000 on renovation and furnished it with many treasures from Italy. He developed the grounds (1804 to 1810) including the 22 acres (8.9 ha) lake.

1815 - Lyons Hill is also one of the places claimed as the scene of Daniel O'Connell's celebrated duel with John D'Esterre in 1815

1853 - Edward Lawless, 3rd Baron Cloncurry (1816 - 1869) was Sheriff of Co. Kildare from 1838, and of Co. Dublin from 1846. He married Elizabeth Kirwan (d. 1895), of Castle Hacket, Co. Galway. They had nine children 5 sons and 4 daughters. Edward committed suicide by jumping from the third floor of Lyons house.

1869 – Upon Edward's death Valentine Lawless, 4th Baron Cloncurry (1840 - 1928) inherited Lyons. He was Sheriff of Co. Kildare from 1867. He married Laura Sophia Priscilla Winn (d. 29 Oct 1891). They had 2 daughters. By then the immense wealth of that branch of the Lawless family had been frittered away. Valentine played a large part in Home Rule. He disposed of some of his remaining lands to the British Government who laid out a scheme for Veterans of World War I. His oldest daughter, Mary Hermione Lawless (1886-1922) also preceded him in death. As he had no male heir his estate passed to his brother Frederick, who became the 5th Baron Cloncurry.

1928 – Upon Valentine's death Frederick Lawless, 5th Baron Cloncurry (1847 - 1929) inherited Lyons - he served on the staff of two Lords Lieutenant of Ireland and as a Governor of the National Gallery of Ireland

1929 – Upon Frederick's death – who was unmarried and had no children - the Barony and Baronetcy of Cloncurry became extinct and Lyons Estate passed to his niece Valentine's youngest daughter Kathleen Emily Marie Lawless (1888-1957).

1957 – Upon Kathleen Lawless' death she bequeathed the remaining property to a cousin, G. M. V. Winn.

1962 - University College, Dublin (UCD), purchased Lyons Estate in 1962 from the Winn family, the purchase consisted of Lyons House and approximately 1,200 acres (485 ha) of land.

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