P

aty Kavanagh, who hailed from these parts, from Inniskeen, called it in his poem *Having To Live In The Country*, “wild, wet Monaghan.”

When we went recently, it never rained once. Nor was it particularly wild. I felt, imperceptibly, robbed by Mother Nature. The sun shone almost non-stop.

The last time I was in Monaghan town was a very long time ago with Hothouse Flowers, back in 1988—we travelled up and down to their gig in a hall in the town in the band’s rackety tour van. Nearly three decades later, we’ve gone into a bar on Dublin Street in Monaghan Town for a bit of lunch and they are playing Hothouse Flowers. Later, walking around the town, my wife and me, and the baby in her buggy, took in the architectural intricacies of the place: to name but a few, the Victorian courthouse built in 1830 on Church Square; the Gothic-Revival St Macartin’s Cathedral built 1867-92 and, erected in 1876, the Rossmore Memorial in The Diamond.

The mini nervous breakdown I was having on the first day — being so close but a few miles away to the site of a 99-year-old man in *his* bedroom attire — albeit a distinctly regal looking silk pyjamas — and slippers, having his breakfast at an adjoining table in the hotel’s dining area. Allow me to introduce you to the baby’s granddad.


ding to Burke’s Peerage, ‘he died on 28 March 1874 in this most glamorous of getaways.

At the appointed hour, a driver came and picked us up and brought us the 400 metres to the hotel’s exquisitely Snaffles Restaurant. We had a beautiful meal of local meats and fish, followed by sumptuous desserts, all washed down with a glass or two of good wine. I won’t bore you with what the baby had. The following morning, Emilia in her jammies was in thrall to the sight of a 99-year-old man in *his* bedroom attire — albeit a distinctively regal looking silk pyjamas — and slippers, having his breakfast at an adjoining table in the hotel’s dining area.

All night I was thinking: “Why Uncle Jack! Doubtless my one-year-old daughter was thinking: “Why Uncle Jack! All I can say is that Castle Leslie is probably more of Norman Leslie who was spotted in Snaffles Restaurant and a casual three-course family dinner at Conor’s Bar at The Lodge on a night of your choice.

From €700 for 3 Nights
From €900 for 5 Nights

To make a booking, please contact the Reservations Team on 047781200 or email reservations@castleleslie.com

Web: www.castleleslie.com

Castle Leslie Estate
Glaslough
Monaghan

www.castleleslie.com

GETTING THERE

OVERNIGHT ESCAPE
One night’s accommodation, a full Irish breakfast and a 5 course dinner in Snaffles Restaurant. From €135pps at The Lodge
From €145pps at The Castle

COUNTRY GETAWAY
Two nights accommodation plus a five-course dinner in Snaffles Restaurant.

From €215pps at The Lodge
From €225pps at The Castle

EASTER FAMILY BREAKS
Three or five nights at the Old Stable Mills or Village Cottages to include breakfast each morning in Snaffles Restaurant and a casual three-course family dinner at Conor’s Bar at The Lodge on a night of your choice.

From €700 for 3 Nights
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Castle Leslie Estate
Glaslough
Monaghan

www.castleleslie.com

Sir John Leslie with his uncle Norman Leslie’s sword. Norman Leslie was shot and killed while charging a German machine-gun post in October 1914

CASTLE LESLIE

Camelot — and baby came too

Monaghan

Barry Egan

 CASTLE LESLIE

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