

Haunted Houses *and* Creepy Castles of Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown

*Words by David Gunning
Illustrations by Katelyn McKenna*

*FAMILY M
OF HAUNT*

*Vengeful ghost
claims another*

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DUBLIN



MOVES OUT ED HOUSE



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IS THIS
IRELAND'S
SPOOKIEST
HOUSE?

SHIP sinks off COAST



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Illustrations © **Katelyn McKenna**

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Haunted Houses and Creepy Castles of Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown



There are lots of old houses in Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County. Many of these were built a long time ago for wealthy landowners. They lived in these big houses with their families and the servants who looked after them. However, they were not the only people living in these houses; many of these buildings were also home to ghosts and ghouls, and they have managed to stick around long after the families and servants have left...

These illustrated stories will bring you on a tour of some of the most haunted places in the county.

Read at your own risk...

Castle Park

Castle Park is a very old mansion that was built in Dalkey around 1820 when the area was remote and rural. The house had several owners who extended the building and planted many trees in the parkland around it.

Castle Park was purchased by Wilfred P. Toone in 1904. Toone was an educator and he opened a private school in the big house. The old mansion still forms part of Castle Park School today.

However, many pupils may not be aware that a former owner of the big house continues to visit... The ghost of a noble woman who lived in Castle Park many years ago is said to appear on the grounds every night at midnight. She can be seen riding her horse across the lawn in front of Castle Park, furiously lashing her whip.

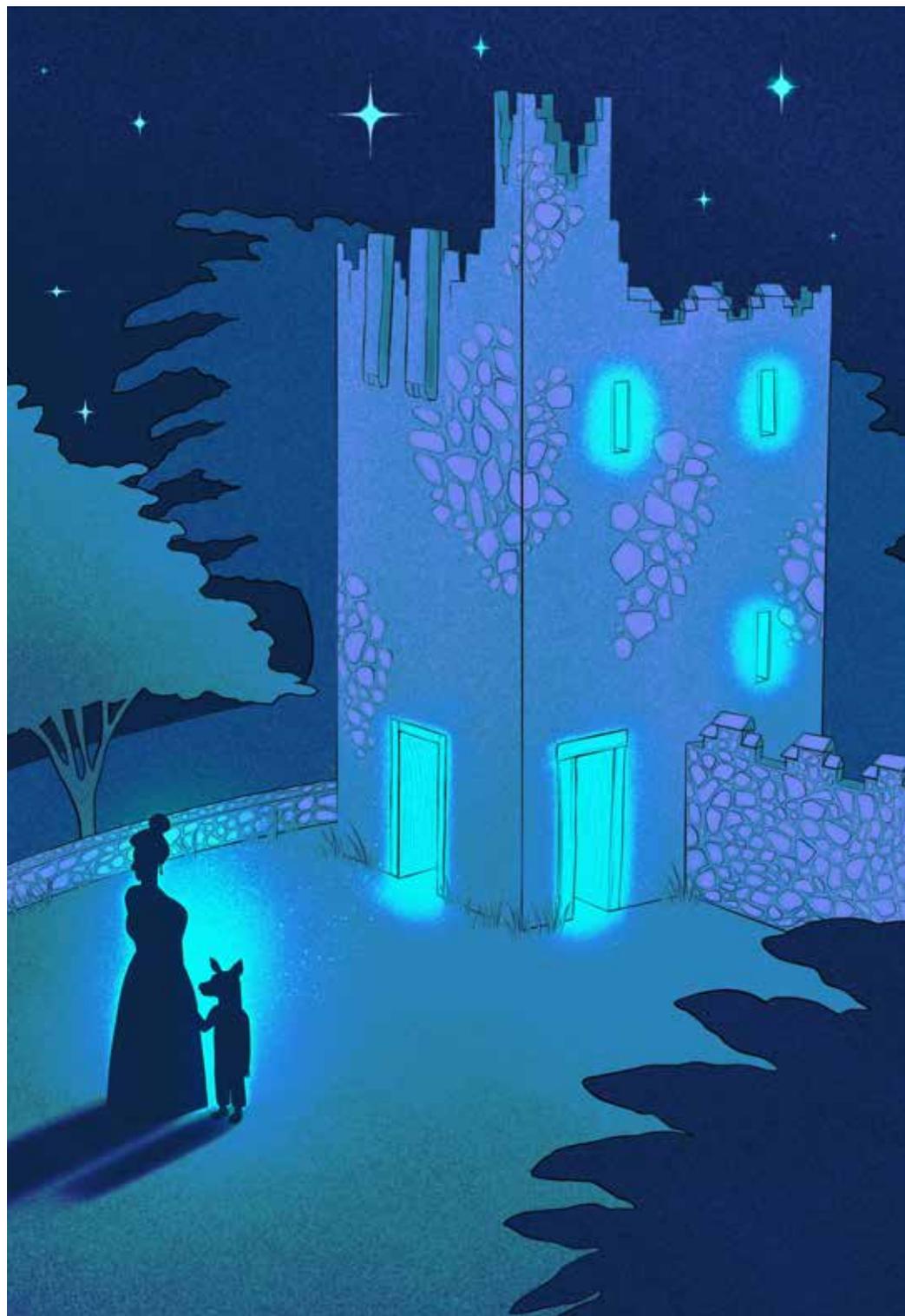


The Widow Gamble's Curse

The Upper Mounttown Road in Monkstown is known to locals as Widow Gamble's Hill and there are many stories about the infamous Widow Gamble who lived in the area a long time ago. In one of the tales, the poor widow had many children to care for and begged and mended clothes to survive. One day she asked a wealthy lady who lived in a big house if she could spare some coins. 'Go away with your little pig children' was the lady's reply.

At that, the widow screamed, 'May your next child have a pig's head!'. The lady soon gave birth and her child was born with a beautiful angelic face. However, a few days later it was transformed into a pig's head. The lady swore that she would have her revenge and sent one of her servants to secretly poison the widow.

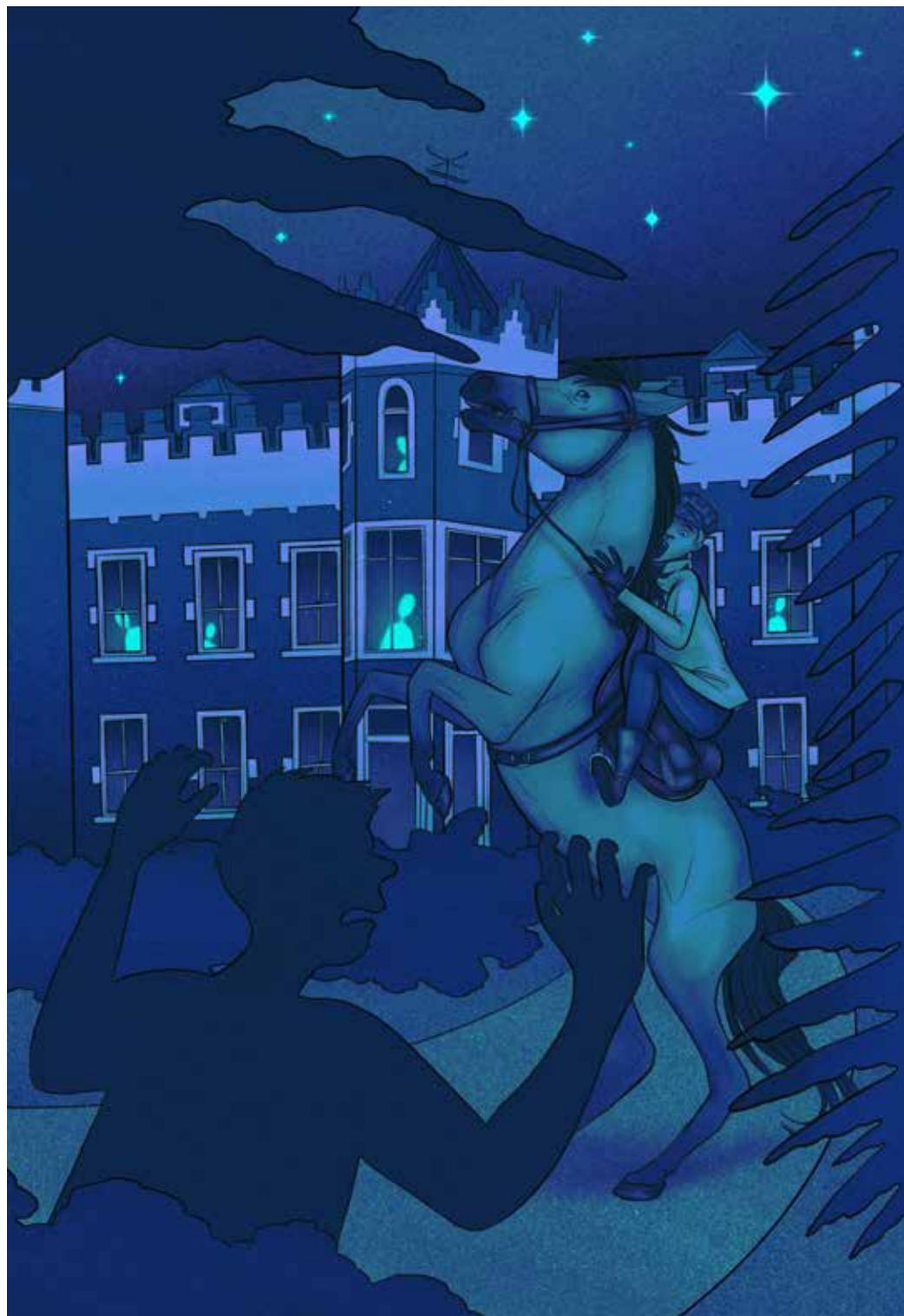
Many locals still see the ghostly Widow Gamble passing along the Mounttown Road at night. Others have seen her roam the vicinity of Carrickbrennan graveyard or the ruins of Monkstown Castle. Her tormented spirit, unable to find peace, lets out the occasional shrill cry.



Killiney Castle

Killiney Castle was built in 1740 by Colonel John Malpas and was originally known as Mount Malpas. Several different people owned the big house throughout the years and one of them was a rich landlord who possessed lots of smaller houses in the local area. The landlord was a cruel man. When his tenants struggled with money and could not pay the rent, he would throw them out of their homes. Many people lost their houses and they hated the landlord as a result.

One dark night, as the landlord rode his horse back towards the castle, a local man whom he had recently evicted sprang from the bushes and frightened the horse. The animal bolted across Dalkey Hill and jumped over the edge of a cliff with the landlord on its back. After that night, many people reported sightings of a ghostly horse and rider tearing across the hill.



Monkstown Park

The big house at Monkstown Park was built in 1843 by Charles Haliday, a banker and historian who campaigned for better living conditions for poor people in the local area. Haliday designed a fine residence for himself with plenty of room for his books and pamphlets. He died in 1866 and is buried nearby in Carrickbrennan graveyard.

Monkstown Park was sold and later used as a school. It was purchased by the Christian Brothers in 1950 and is known as CBC Monkstown Park today. Several ghostly sightings have been reported in the building through the years. Pupils boarding at the school reported seeing a lady in grey walking through the dormitories at night. They were told not to be afraid, that this ghoulish sighting was merely the former housekeeper who had died almost a century ago.

However, on one occasion two women who worked in the kitchens were finishing up for the night when an unearthly presence shoved them with force onto the floor. The identity of this second spirit remains a mystery...





Blackrock House

Blackrock House is a large red brick mansion built on a site overlooking Dublin Bay in 1774. The rocky shoreline below the big house was the scene of a terrible tragedy in 1807 when two ships carrying troops, the Prince of Wales and Rochdale, sank in stormy seas.



The Prince of Wales crashed against the rocks behind Blackrock House, close to where Seapoint Dart Station is today, and 120 passengers lost their lives in the rough sea. Many of the bodies were recovered and laid out in the coach house of Blackrock House before they were buried nearby.

Today, on blustery wintry nights, the cries of the terrified soldiers can still be heard along the coast...

The awful tragedy led to the construction of Dún Laoghaire harbour as a safe place for ships to wait until stormy weather has passed.

Mount Anville House

Mount Anville House forms part of the campus of Mount Anville schools and the big house is reportedly haunted by the ghostly spectre of Jane Dargan, wife of William Dargan, the Father of Irish Railways. Mr Dargan and his wife lived in Mount Anville before the house was sold to an order of nuns called the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1865.

Mrs Dargan did not want to depart from Mount Anville and refused to leave her bedroom. She even threw her shoe at some servants who came to pack her bags, but she was finally persuaded to leave.

Many years later, the old bedrooms had been turned into dormitories for the boarders at Mount Anville. Several girls decided to play hide-and-seek one dark evening. The seeker closed her eyes and began to count to ten. She felt a strange presence in the room and opened her eyes to investigate. A ghostly woman with angry bulging eyes was shaking her fists at her. The girl fled the room in terror and ran to find her friends.



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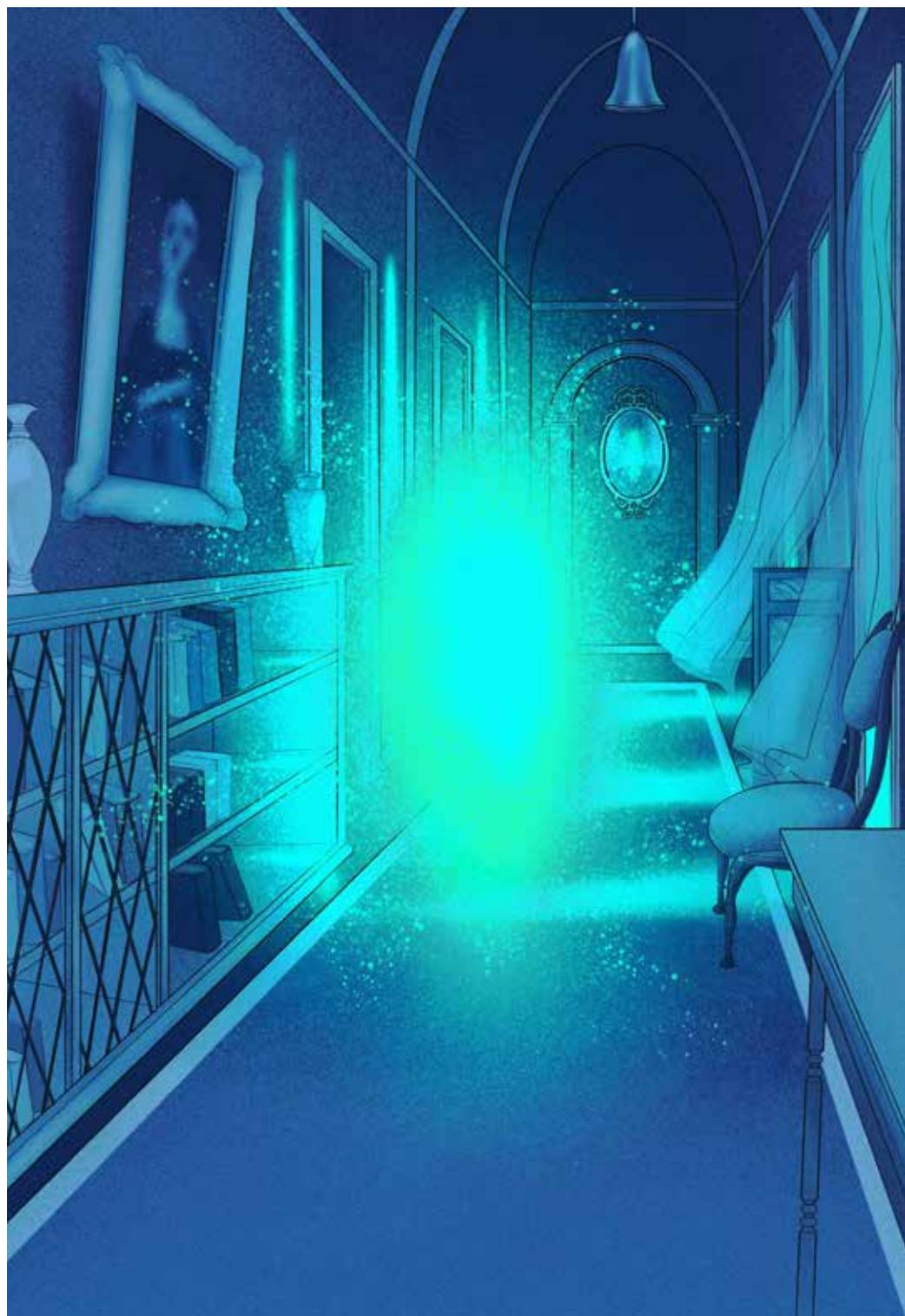
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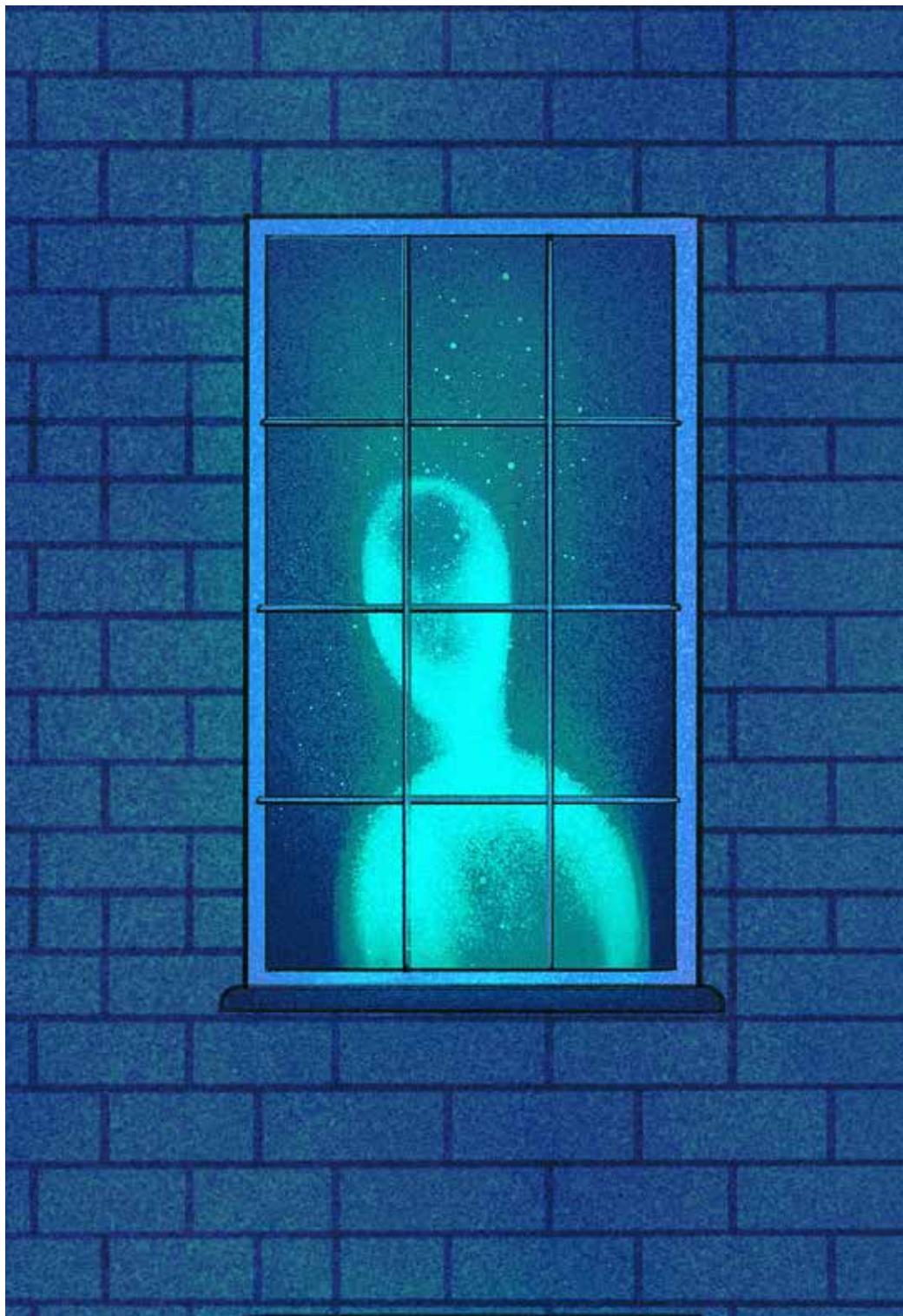
Cabinteely House

Cabinteely House was built in 1769 for Robert Nugent, a poet and politician. The original estate surrounding the big house was opened to the public as Cabinteely Park in 1982. The house and park are cared for by Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council today.

Cabinteely House has seen its fair share of strange happenings over the years. Visitors to the house can sometimes smell food cooking even though the building is empty, and the kitchens are no longer in use. The sounds of loud footsteps upstairs are another common occurrence but when these noises are investigated there is never a soul in sight.

It would appear that a ghost roams the halls of Cabinteely House although no one has ever caught a glimpse of this elusive ghoul!







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