

Whitehall



The house has the most wonderful view over Roaring Water Bay but has been spoilt by the modern windows



The Front door





Extract from the

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Flatley and friend view £2m seaside hideaway

by Tommy Barker

THE EGO has landed.

The all-singing, all-dancing and very much All Cash Michael Flatley, flew into Skibbereen in Cork over the Bank Holiday weekend to view a £2m seaside home up for sale. He dropped from the skies courtesy Celtic helicopters, on Sunday to meet with a local auctioneer and visit the most expensive house to come up publicly for sale outside Dublin, historic Whitehall House on Roaringwater Bay.

The world-class property, owned for many years by a German family, has its own beaches, a ruined castle, the 16th century Rincolisky Castle, and 100 acres of land as well as two walled gardens. The house has six bedrooms, separate staff quarters, a farm yard, a stunning setting with sea views around the headland from Baltimore, a jetty and moorings - but does not have a ballroom.

The former Riverdancer, who grossed more than \$100m with Lord of the Dance, has said on several occasions he wants to buy a home in Ireland. The £2m asking price on Whitehall will hardly bother the dancer, who last year claimed he was making £1m a week. He already has a base in Dublin and houses in the US, in London and in France, along with a 131' yacht called the Lord of the Dance.

Boston-born Flatley, now in his early 40s, touched his precious size 8 feet down on West Cork soil lunchtime Sunday, and was then seen getting into the almost humble VW Passat of Skibbereen auctioneer Charlie McCarthy. Mr McCarthy is a joint agent on the house with Ian Finnegan of Finnegan Menton of Dublin. Last summer, Mr Finnegan bought the £3m Reen na Furrira estate near Sneem in Kerry for a client.

Whitehall House has portions dating back to the early 1600s, but most of it is 19th century and is in excellent repair. The vendors are the Schmitz family from Cologne, who bought it in 1962.

Mr Flatley was accompanied by a young woman companion who was not identified. He spent about one hour visiting the house and flew out in the early afternoon from Ilen Rovers GAA grounds.