

KILLRUDDERY NEWSLETTER



02: AUGUST 2009

Welcome to Killruddery. We hope you enjoy the second edition of our newsletter...

In case you haven't visited, Killruddery House and Gardens - with its 800 acres of parkland, farm and forest - is nestled between the Little Sugar Loaf, Bray Head and the Southern Cross in Bray, 5 minutes off the N11.

- It's a remarkable and unspoiled place, but with lots of things to do and see every day of the week.
- Walks suitable for all ages, including the new woodland walk.
- A very special historic garden - a place of fountains, rare trees and plants, and secluded corners, perfect for hide and seek.



- Gardens Open daily 12.30 to 5pm until the end of September.
- A full programme of special events.
- In May, June and September, there are guided tours of the impressive formal rooms in the House, including the Orangery.
- Please visit our website and subscribe to our newsletter for regular updates at www.killruddery.com

SPECIAL EVENT

My Left Foot

Killruddery prepares for an innovative outdoor film screening of My Left Foot, the biggest Oscar winning movie ever filmed at Killruddery.

There are many ways to celebrate the life and achievements of Christy Brown and this is the year to do it as 2009 marks the 55th anniversary of the publication of his profoundly moving autobiography My Left Foot and the 20th anniversary since the production of the Oscar winning film of the same name.

Killruddery Gardens will be the venue for an outdoor screening of the movie on Saturday, 29th August. Tickets are €11.80 for sale from www.ticketmaster.ie and also will be available for sale on the evening of the event. The Garden Café will be holding a big B-B-Q and picnics in the garden are very welcome.

This screening is part of our Heritage Week programme. Heritage Day, to be held on Sunday 30th of August, sees the gardens open to the public for free for this occasion.

CAFE NEWS

The Garden Cafe at Killruddery only opened in May and is now hitting its stride. On special event days there are barbeques - serving freshly made sausages from our own recipe and the last of last years lambs while the farmer fattens up the new year's Killruddery Lamb. On weekdays we are beginning to serve excellent soups made with homemade stocks, and as much from the kitchen garden as possible. Today it was cauliflower and sorrel in a tangy ham stock with sourdough bread.

The main feature of the cafe remains afternoon tea, particularly the cream tea (buttermilk scones, clotted cream and strawberry jam) and the Belgian Chocolate fudge cake. Cakes €-4. Tea €1.90. Coffee €2.20.

We've started a small but exciting new scheme, where the cafe pays commercial prices to the kitchen garden for all its produce, and also for all the wild food, like wild strawberries and mulberries. The funds are channeled back into restoring the kitchen garden to production. In the 1930's three lorries full of produce used go to the Dublin markets every week, and its lovely to see a bit more activity down there again.

The cafe is located within the gardens, which requires an entrance ticket and looks out over the sunken garden up to the Little Sugar Loaf.

WHAT'S NEW?

To make the gardens even more engaging for kids we have installed two new features, this is part of an ongoing programme.

Play House

'My First Killruddery', a bespoke children's playhouse has been set up near the new Garden Café. Architecture/artists duo Culturstruction created this inventive addition to the estate for The Enchanted Garden Festival 2009 and it will be a permanent feature for summers to come.

Children's Activity Sheet

An interactive and informative children's activity sheet will be available for free to all visitors from the beginning of August. Produced by illustrator and garden designer, Sophie Coyle, it's been written to help children engage imaginatively with the historical and natural highlights of the gardens.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Killruddery Summertime Photography Competition

The Killruddery Summertime Photography Competition is proving a great success, with a striking response so far from both amateur and professional photographers. Entries can be made until Monday 14th September, with prizes of €5,000. In addition, The Institute of Photography is running on-site photography courses and tutorials during August and September.

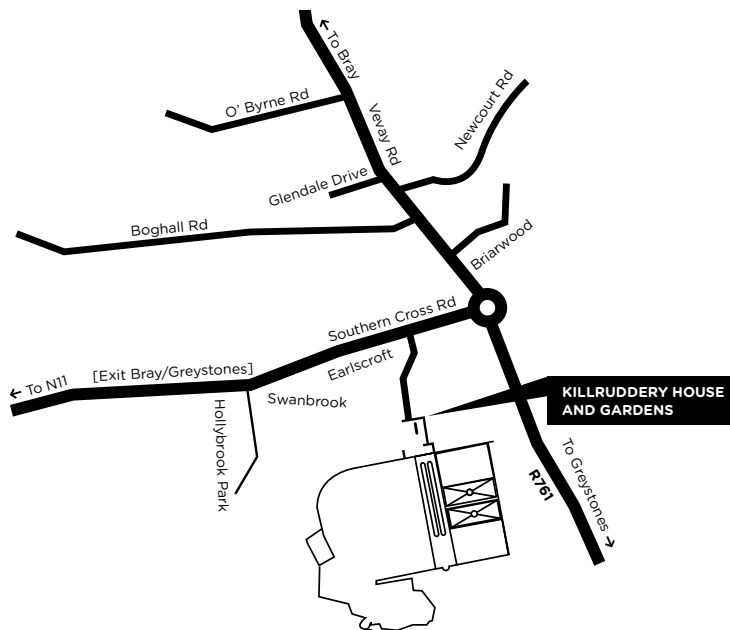
NATURE SKETCH

- A pair of Buzzards are squawking around their nest in a huge Scots Pine, giving their three or four fledglings, hatched in March, encouragement to fly for the first time.
- The summer's weeds are being cut back around the 3000 beech and oak saplings planted in 2006. The new trees will rejuvenate woods planted in the eighteenth century.

- One of the European Silver Firs is finally dead. These great trees, normally growing in the Alps - well above the altitude for aphids and other pests - only have a life expectancy of 60-80 years in Ireland.
- The plantation at the foot of the Sugarloaf suffered serious fire damage in the mid-1990's. Now we're cutting a wide fire-break to protect it and the animals that live there. These include birds like the Meadow Pipit and Stone Chat. The colony of Irish hares in the plantation is also doing well.

Something from Daragh...

This is the time for propagation – growing cuttings from established plants. We hope we'll get lots of hydrangeas and eupatorium for the new walks in the Rock Wood. The path through the wood up to the top of the rock is now clear. The grass growth should have slowed by now, but the rain has kept it going so we're still on the mowers a bit more than we'd like to be. Daragh Farren, heads a team of three full-time gardeners.



GETTING HERE

Killruddery House & Gardens is situated 20 kms south of Dublin, in Bray Co. Wicklow. It is accessible by DART, Dublin Bus and car. For those in Bray, we are easily reached from the town by bike or foot.

BY CAR From Bray Town take the Vevey Road toward Greystones. Turn right at the second roundabout onto the Southern Cross. The entrance to Killruddery House and Gardens is signposted, on the left, after the Ramada Woodland Court Hotel.

From all other directions Take the Bray/Greystones exit off N11 and follow signs for Greystones through two roundabouts. Drive 2 mins along the Southern Cross Road, past the swimming pool on your left and the entrance is signposted on your right 100m before the Ramada Woodland Court Hotel.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT From Dublin you can catch the 84 Dublin Bus on the Eden Quay and hop out near Ramada Woodland Court Hotel, almost opposite the gates. The DART and Finnigans bus or taxi from Bray station is another option.

KILLRUDDERY HOUSE & GARDENS EVENTS PROGRAMME 2009

Sunday 26 July

Teddy Bears' Picnic
Family fun day

Sunday 9 August

Friends of Vocal Arts presents
Opera in the Orangery

Saturday 15 August

Shakespeare's 'Much Ado
About Nothing'
Outdoor theatre

Sunday 16 August

Opera in the Orangery
Friends of Vocal Arts Presents

Saturday 29 August

My Left Foot
Outdoor film screening



Sunday 30 August

Garden Open Day, Heritage Week

Friday 25 - Wednesday 30 Sept

Photography at Killruddery' Exhibition
in association with Canon and IOP



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Open Daily, 12.30 - 5.00pm,
Admissions apply

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