

KILLRUDDERY NEWSLETTER

#04: JANUARY 2010

Dear Neighbours and Friends,

My family and I would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

In 2010 we are continuing to offer many activities to the surrounding community and visitors to the area.

If you have not visited Killruddery, we hope you will take some time to do so in the coming season and be pleasantly surprised by what you find. If you have been here before we hope you enjoyed your visit and that you will continue to visit us this year.

Regards,

Jack Meath

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OPENING TIMES

Killruddery Gardens will re-open, for weekends in April and daily from May 1st until September 30th, from 12.30 – 5 pm.

The House is open for guided tours May-June and September from 1 to 5 pm.

Admission Prices:

Gardens Only- Adults € 6, Concession € 5,

This year children under 12 years go Free and must be accompanied by an adult.

House and Gardens- Adult € 10, Concession € 8, Children € 2, Group Rate € 8 (booked tours only)

SEASON PASSES

Killruddery House and Gardens offers a "Season Pass"- These passes are an excellent gift for any occasion, allowing holders to visit the gardens and café as often as they like during the open season and to benefit from event discounts. Individual Season Pass - € 30 Family Season Pass - € 60 (Pass holder plus 3 guests) Please check our website for further details- www.killruddery.com

SPECIAL EVENT

Killruddery Film Festival, 2010.

Following the success of last year's silent film festival, Killruddery Film Festival is set to return on the 11th – 14th March. This year's festival will again see the celebrated film historian **Kevin Brownlow** who will be present for the festival. He is currently choosing what should be another unmissable selection of rarely seen classics from the silent period.

The subtitle for 2010's festival is 'Celebrating Lost, Overlooked and Forgotten Cinema' and with this second strand the festival has invited a small number of very special guests including **John Boorman** and **Rebecca Miller** to select and introduce a favourite film that for one reason or another never managed to reach the audience it deserved.

In addition to the film events there will also be several talks and illustrated lectures delivered by guests of the festival throughout the weekend.

Also on the grounds of Killruddery itself a number of site-specific film screenings are being co-ordinated this year with the help of our festival partners, the Mermaid Arts Centre. The café and festival bar will be available to patrons of the festival.

www.killrudderyfilmfestival.com

THE GARDEN CAFE

Situated in one of the most beautiful buildings in Killruddery, the old Ornamental Dairy, the Café is located within the gardens, which requires an entrance ticket.

We will be serving freshly made Cream Tea and Cakes, Kitchen Garden Soup and, on occasions Killruddery BBQ to all our customers.

For group bookings email: cafe@killruddery.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt- 4th – 5th of April

The Easter Bunny is visiting Killruddery again on Easter Sunday and Monday!

He has asked us to set you a quest to work out his mobile phone number! There will be clues and tasks for you to solve to get his mobile number, text him and receive an Easter Egg prize!

Bring and Buy-15th April

White Elephant – Plants – Delicatessen – Vegetables – Baby Clothes & Toys – Books – Cakes – Tombola – Jewellery – Raffle Refreshments in the magnificent Orangery

10.30 am to 1.30 pm
Entrance € 3 including Gardens

ON THE FARM

The cold snap is over and all the burst pipes are fixed and most of the flood waters have receded and we can all breath a sigh of relief.

This years calves were weaned at the end of October and are tucked up in the shed until the weather improves and the grass starts growing again. The sheep have now been moved into the lambing shed. They are due to lamb at the end of February.

We have already sold all our seasoned firewood for this year and now have only unseasoned wood available.

If anyone would be interested in Lamb for the freezer now would be the time to download and fill out our form from our website as we only have 30 left. We will be doing a limited beef box (only 10) at the end of January if you would like more details, contact the farm directly by email at farm@killruddery.com.

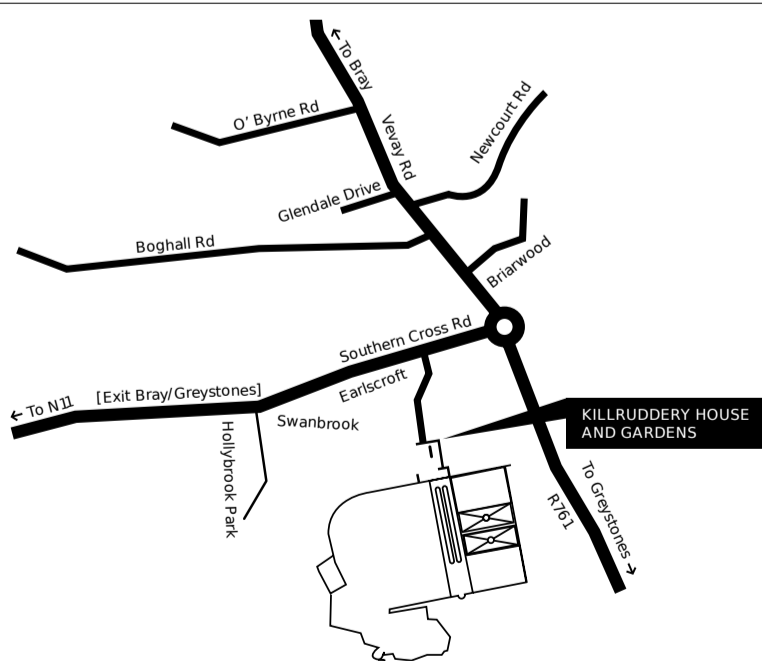
NATURE SKETCH

The mating season for the deer took place well into October. This is known as 'The Rut'. Sika deer who were introduced into Powerscourt estate in 1861 have colonised much of Wicklow and indeed most counties in Ireland. They have been in Killruddery since the early 1990s. The rutting call of the stags is a haunting, evocative whistle, either a long drawn out sound lasting several seconds or a short high pitched sound. The rut lasts for approximately a month and the mature males will each attempt to collect as many females (hinds) as possible, which may number into the double figures. The immature stags form bachelor groups separate from the females. The mature stags put on weight and muscle during September and their antlers, which they grow every year become hard. Autumn and winter birds migrate to Killruddery from the continent during October and November. Redwings, who are a smaller member of the thrush family come in large flocks as soon as the weather hardens in early winter. Woodcock and Teal arrive in early November from Scandinavia. However some woodcock are resident and breed in Killruddery. Another visitor which appeared is the Greenland white fronted goose which we hear sometimes in late September as they fly

overhead on their way to the slobbs of Co. Wexford, they head back to Greenland in late March. December was the month that vixens come into season. The pairing of foxes takes place and the vixen makes a screeching noise at intervals, it a wild high pitched sound. The pair will prepare a den and three to five cubs will arrive in March.

HEADGARDENERS CORNER

The harsh weather has taken its toll on the garden (not to mention its staff!) For the second consecutive year, we've lost quite a number of plants to the low temperatures, though some will be replaceable, having been propagated last summer. On a brighter note, several hundred daffodils, bluebells, allium and necterascordum planted in November/ December will have quite enjoyed the cold spell. Ground preparation work in the recently restored Rockwood is going very well for our planting to proceed as planned in the late spring. The Apple Orchards winter pruning has just been completed professionally for the first time in over 20 years. Ivy and overgrowth have been curtailed in the Walled Garden making room for the beginnings of a revived Kitchen Garden ready to supply the café with fresh vegetables and Salad.



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 Vevay 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 Finnegans bus or taxi from Bray station is another option.

KILLRUDDERY HOUSE & GARDENS EVENTS PROGRAMME 2010

Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 March
Killruddery Film Festival 2010

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 of April
Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday 15 April
Bring and Buy Sale

Saturday 1 May
Dawn Chorus Walk
Saturday 8 May
Summer Birds of Wicklow with Eric Dempsey.
Childrens workshop (TBC)
Saturday 22 May
Dawn Chorus Walk

Sunday 20 June
Father's Day Treasure Hunt

June (dates TBC)
Music in Great Irish Houses

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June
The Enchanted Garden

July (dates TBC)
Opera at The Orangery- Friends of Vocal Arts

August (date TBC)
Teddy Bears Picnic

Sunday 29 August
Heritage Day

Sunday 31 October
Halloween

Please see website for further details and additions

NEWSLETTER ON-LINE