

Section News – Irish Section – for November Journal 2009

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On Sunday 6th September, Jim Sweeney & Brendan Lang organized a nice run for the Club. They met at Spa Hotel Lucan and went to Russborough House for morning coffee. Russborough House was built in 1741 by Joseph Leeson, the son of a wealthy brewer in Dublin. It is known as one of the beautiful houses in Ireland. The architect was Richard Cassells and Russborough is widely considered to be his finest achievement. It is well worth a visit and is open to the public most weekends.

They then went onto Altamont Gardens, where they went for a long walk around the gardens and down by the path of the River Slaney. Altamont Gardens which is known as the most romantic garden in Ireland and is often referred to as *'the jewel in Ireland's gardening crown'*. Unfortunately due to very inclement weather, they couldn't really see it at its best, but enjoyed the walk through the gardens and down by the River Slaney, none the less (even though they got soaked in very heavy rain!).

Alan Rice got a bad puncture just as they were leaving Altamont and everyone stopped in the rain to wait as Tony McDonald and Brendan Lang gave their assistance and fixed the puncture so that he could get going again.

They went to Rathwood to the Restaurant and had a really nice lunch. I understand that Jim Sweeney has great plans for runs for next year as he has come across a book containing "Great houses and hidden gardens of Ireland" so we all have that to look forward to.

From September 18th - 21st, we had a great Thatch weekend in Doolin and thanks to Jackie Hunter for organising the Irish coffees for everyone on arrival. Unfortunately Tommy Atkinson could not make it this year - Tommy we missed you. Special thanks to Gerri & John Chandler and Chris Rollinson for coming down on Thursday night to help organise all the cottages and also serving the Irish stew to everyone on arrival on the Friday, job well done all. I would also like to thank T.J. McHale and Brendan Lang for organising the run out on Saturday, by all accounts it was a great run. One comment I had was "it was very hairy in places"! Unfortunately I was not able to be there for the dinner on Saturday night and I would like to thank T.J. McHale who stood in for me, as I had to leave early this year.

By the time you read this news, we will have had our AGM and we should have a new committee, and the October weekend in Ardara will be over.

Anne McDonald will be organising the Christmas lunch in the Leinster area on behalf of the Club, and I wish to advise that the date has been changed to **Sunday 6th December**. Anne will be emailing members with venue/prices etc. later on. T.J. McHale will be organising his lunch for the N.W. area after Christmas - watch the diary and website for details of that too.

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