



The Irish Wolfhound of Ireland

Ballydoyle 2018

News!etter Special

July 2018

Magnificent Ballydoyle!



Following a special invitation from Club member Jenny O'Meara, the Club visited the world-renowned Ballydoyle training facility in Tipperary.



Nijinsky at the gates of Ballydoyle



The first members to arrive had come early to help with the parking arrangements. The ever-active Jenny came to meet us at the gates where the statue of Nijinsky stands guard.

We followed Jenny up to the stables.

In the distance we glimpsed a solitary figure concentrating upon groups of colts being exercised. This turned out to be the master of Ballydoyle, the legendary Aidan O'Brien.

When he had cast his expert eye over the final group, returning to the stables, he spoke with Jenny and then introduced himself to us.

We were quite bowled over that this calm charismatic legend in racing with his trademark shades had taken the time to say hello, and to have a picture taken.

We had not expected to meet him- it was a wonderful surprise!



Members stopped to admire the statue of the great “Yeats”
Our host Jenny stands proudly with her wolfhound Yeats – named after the legend!



Ballydoyle in South Tipperary is one of the best thoroughbred training grounds in the world. 20 members and 13 hounds took part in the opportunity to visit this most special place in the world of racing. The morning got off to a damp start- but nothing could dampen our spirit of excitement. We were all so delighted to be part of the Ballydoyle experience as we set off. In fact the change in weather from the recent heatwave was better suited to both horses & hounds.



Departure!



Members survey the multi-surface tracks & long gallops where all the serious training happens.



Jenny explains some of the innovative techniques that have brought Ballydoyle to the top of the racing world



Ivan Gargan with his hounds



Keen horsewoman & Club member Kim Allison returns to Ireland to visit Ballydoyle and to meet two of her own Stonestorm puppies. Here she is with Stonestorm Ruiri & Stonestorm Bronagh.





Committee member Eddie Bourke with Shannon in a contemplative mood. Eddie told us that his first job as a trainee draftsman was to draw the entrance gates at Ballydoyle.

The Driving Tour

Apart from the Walking Tour, Jenny had organised the Driving Tour- with the kind help of husband Willie.

Here with Club Members Cathy & Sean McKeown leading the way the car follows along enabling everyone to take in the sights & spectacle of Ballydoyle.

Thank you Willie!

and thank you to everyone who came to Ballydoyle to make the Club's visit so memorable.



Ann Corrin surveying the scene with Finnegan



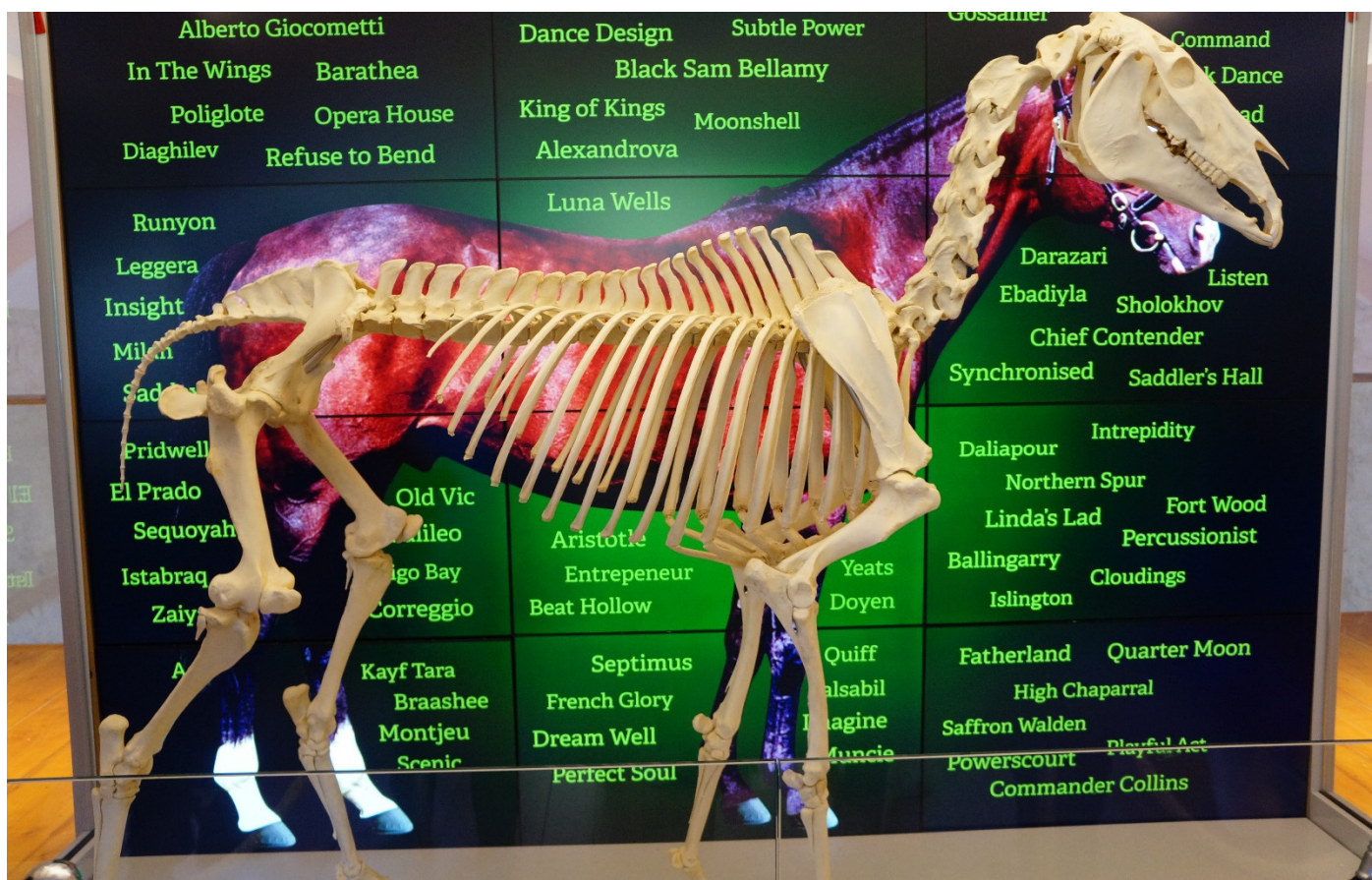
The Fethard Horse & Country Experience



The trip continued with a visit to the enthralling Fethard Horse & Country Experience Museum. The Fethard Horse Country Experience Museum was opened in 2017 with special guest Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber, a long-time resident of Fethard. It is housed in the magnificent Thosel (town hall) dating from the early 17th century.



The museum includes an interactive exhibition which has amongst its many attractions the skeleton of multiple horseracing champion sire Sadlers Wells, the horse who did so much for Coolmore.



Dinner

Members rounded off their day by enjoying dinner and chat in the famous McCarthy's pub!



and finally,

Our sincere thank you to Jenny & Willie and to everyone at Ballydoyle for a memorable experience which we will all treasure.

What's coming next?

Coming soon- the club's next amazing day out!
Full information & invitations will be released soon!

Please keep **Sunday 26th August** –
the last day of Heritage Week- **free!**

Mary Potter
Public Relations Officer

