

# CORRIB CARRY ON

FROM MICHAEL HYNES

Corrib Dry Rally 2015

Photo: Peadar Canavan



## DRY RALLY 2015

The 'Dry Rally' has featured on the program of Corrib IWAI for many years. This year it involved a visit to the historic town of Drogheda on the banks of the River Boyne. On Friday afternoon the participants congregated at the 4 star D Hotel on the south bank of the river Boyne. This was to be the location for the next two nights. The first serious event was dinner in the De Lacy restaurant. This proved to be a very enjoyable affair with excellent food accompanied by moderate amounts of wine. Especially recommended is the house red which is really excellent.

## BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

A mini-bus had been hired for Saturday morning and 10.30 saw us all on board for the Battle of the Boyne interpretative centre located on the Oldbridge Estate. This had been pre-booked and for those who had previously visited the site and those who had not it proved a very educational

experience due to the knowledge and enthusiasm of our guide Claire Ryan. The children enjoyed the mannequins, the canons, the laser show and the tents depicting the kings in their pre-battle deliberations. Following a visit to the gardens and the tea rooms, the bus travelled along the narrow road along the canal. This enabled us to view the completed first lock and the Boyne Greenway. A planned visit to the second lock did not take place due to the presence of a TV crew recording a programme to be shown on Irish TV the following week.

## FRUIT FARM

The second item on the Saturday agenda involved a visit to the Boyne Grove fruit farm just outside the town. This run by Olan McNeece who gave very generously of his time to act as our guide. The main activity on the farm is apple growing. The apples are used for a variety of purposes. Some are sold as apples in supermarkets while others are used to produce apple juice,

cider vinegar and the famous Dan Kelly's cider. Olan guided the bus around the farm and explained how the farm was run and he also elaborated on the science involved dealing with the different soil types on the farm and both producing and storing the apples. Fascinating was his explanation of how they dealt with both pollination and predators.

## HISTORIC DROGHEDA

At 4 pm we joined our guide Kevin for a two-hour walking tour of historic Drogheda. Kevin proved to be extremely knowledgeable and guided us around the town showing us the various historic buildings including St Laurence's Gate and the Highlanes Gallery. Our tour finished at St. Peter's Church where we viewed the relics and head of St. Oliver Plunkett and the true cross. St. Peter's is one of the last Gothic churches to have been built in the 1860s. Everything about the church is impressive despite the fact that it was constructed at a time when Ireland was still recovering from the effects of the famine.

## SCUTTER CUP

Saturday evening saw the group climbing the steps up to the upstairs room of the Tower Restaurant in Millmount. This affords stunning views of the town and we had the whole room to ourselves. After an excellent meal the Chairman brought the gathering to order as the important business of deciding the 2014 recipient of the 'Scutter Cup' had to be addressed. At least two previous distinguished recipients were present. He discussed the travails of some previous recipients and was reminded of his own lucky escape some years ago. However, the 2014 recipient is a really worthy winner with a sinking and two groundings to his credit and he will be formally presented with the cup on his return from New Zealand.

Sincere thanks to Lorraine Courtney and her sister Ursula who with the benefit of local knowledge organised a truly memorable weekend.