

Irish Deer Society



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IDS events June 2015:

**Trip to Inishvickillane
Fawn Tagging, Phoenix Park
National Council meeting**

Inishvickillane Trip

With the permission of the Haughey family the NIDS and IDS braved the elements of the west coast to make the journey by boat to Inishvickillane (Inis Mhic Aoibhleain). Apart from Tearaght an uninhabited steep rock Island, Inishvickillane is the most western part of the country that has had anything that has resembled normal habitation.

The Island has become home to a herd of Native Irish Red deer that were moved to the Island in the Mid-1980's. At the time there was fear that the native herd in Killarney would cross breed with the introduced Sika deer so the idea behind the project on the Inis was to keep and ensure a pure bloodline of native deer.



All those that made the trip and endured the misty weather were gifted with views of the native red deer herd, European storm-petrel, Atlantic puffin and various other bird colonies.

The trip involved an overnight stay on the Island, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone as it awarded more opportunities for photographs. In addition to bringing tents some people decided to pack their kitchen sink which made for some interesting donkey/mule work. The guitar that appeared on the trip was a very welcomed addition around the warm fire that night. Even the European storm-petrels came into have a look and admire the singing.

The members of the NIDS and IDS collected up some samples of the shed deer antlers on the Island and a review was completed of the size, shape and points of all the antlers in comparison to what would be expected in the various counties with red deer throughout the 32 counties of the Island of Ireland.



Please note that none of the antlers were removed from the Island upon completion of the trip.

The Irish Deer Society hopes to hold another trip to the Island in the coming weeks, this will be confirmed at a later date. I would like to also take this opportunity to once again thank the Haughey family for the opportunity to make the trip in June.

Fawn Tagging – Phoenix Park

Once again the Irish Deer Society hosted their annual fawn-tagging event with the cooperation of the OPW and UCD who facilitated us on the day. It was a huge success with all in attendance enjoying both the experience of seeing the young fawns, the tagging procedure and the educational briefs. The briefs were given by the OPW Park Ranger (Terry Moore), UCD Supervisor (Dr. Favel Naulty) and some of the representative IDS members.



The main topics that were covered on the included:

- The deer management in operation in the Phoenix Park.
 - Reasons for its implementation.
 - How it is implemented.
 - Sustainable number of deer for the park.
- The different types of deer on the Island of Ireland were displayed and how they differ was explained and examples were shown.

The Fawn tagging event continues to be a success year in year out and this year's excellent weather aided in ensuring that it was a success. It is a great opportunity for the IDS members and invited members of the public to observe it first hand.

The OPW and UCD successfully tagged over 100 fawns this year.

