



mills & millers OF IRELAND

The Society for the Preservation of Ancient and Traditional Irish Mills

www.millsofireland.org

MMOI Spring Event - Saturday, April 13th, 2024

Location: **Deerpark Mill, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny, X91 P6V3.** Deerpark Mill is a short distance south of Mullinavat, and easiest access is **exit 11 on the M9 motorway.**

Our Host: John Dunphy.

Fee for the Event: €30 per MMOI member, €35 for non-members.

Early booking essential - via PayPal (via our website) or by cheque to:
MMOI Hon Treasurer Marcus Sweeney, Fancroft Mill, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Meeting point: **The Rising Sun (Eircode X91 W5CC), Mullinavat**, a restaurant and part of the Garrandarragh Inn complex, with adequate parking and facilities. We will later return to The Rising Sun, after the Deerpark Mill visit, for lunch. The facility faces the access from the motorway so clearly visible when entering Mullinavat.

Schedule: Participants gather at The Rising Sun, Mullinavat, X91 P6V3: www.therisingsun.ie

10.30 am Tea/Coffee/Scone on arrival.

11.00 – 11.15: Carpool from The Rising Sun to Deerpark

11.30 – 13.30: Introductions, tour & talk by John Dunphy

14.00 +/- return to The Rising Sun for lunch

Mullinavat, while a south Kilkenny village, it is less than 15 km from Waterford city. Its name is said to derive from *Mill of the Stick* – an ancient mill accessed via a pole. There once were five mills in Mullinavat traceable on the OSI maps – and earlier mills also, like the one described at the falls. The Blackwater flows through Mullinavat, it is augmented via two tributaries just below the village and it enters the Suir just upstream of Waterford city.

Deerpark Mill: We carry an article on this very mill in our Spring 2024 Newsletter no.45 (and available at the Event). The current buildings date to pre 1829 and are in remarkable condition with a new waterwheel just installed. It has a wonderful kiln said to be one of the best preserved in the country. Five generations of Dunphys worked this mill into the 1950s. It has 4 floors, all accessible, and samples of some special tools; Ledgers dating back to 1869; and a lovely weir. A must see!

The Rising Sun 'Ale House' was built in 1644 - Cromwellian era.

Post Lunch options:

Poulanassy Waterfalls Less than 5 minutes from The Rising Sun on the Pilltown road are the Poulanassy Waterfalls. Said also to have been a mill site and traces of the race remain close to the falls (see site signs). Easily accessed from dedicated carpark via grit (steps in places) pathway.

Tory Hill offers a good hike and superb views of neighbouring counties on a good day - southeast of Deerpark Mill. Historic site linked to local outlaw James Denn.

Both as included in the following link - <https://visitkilkenny.ie/going-off-the-grid-in-kilkenny/>