

HUNTING BROOK

Take a panoramic view of the Wicklow Mountains, an ancient woodland glen, a trickling stream, a sloping tract of open white ground, a sturdy Polish log cabin, and a plantsman with the greenest of fingers, and you get one of Ireland's most compelling contemporary gardens. The owner, former head gardener at the historic Airfield Gardens in Co. Dublin, has found a new voice here since 2003. In the generous herbaceous borders below the house he has painted an



Jimi Blake

Lamb Hill, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: (00353) 1 458 3972;

www.huntingbrook.com

On N81 9.3 m from Tallaght exit towards Blessington. Take road signed to Sally Gap and Kilbride, then follow signs to house

Open: 16th and 17th June, 7th, 8th, 28th and 29th July, 18th and 19th Aug, 15th and 16th Sept, 12pm – 5.30pm, and at other times by appt

Entrance: €6, children free

Other information: Refreshments by arrangement. Gardening courses and demonstrations

NEW WC

Hunting Brook

417

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Impressionistic picture using a huge range of grasses and herbaceous perennials (many of them propagated from seed collected in far-flung continents) in shades of orange, purple and brown set off by a variety of foliage. The overall style is a seductive modern combination of tropical and prairie planting. Completely different in character and planting is the woodland walk winding down to the Hunting Brook, a shady haven of mature larches, interesting specimen trees, rhododendrons and bluebells. Different again is the woodland garden created within the remains of a seventh-century ring fort and planted with such treasures as *Trochodendron aralioides* from Korea, *Diphylleia cymosa* from the Appalachian Mountains and *Deinanthus bifida* from Japan. Jimi Blake's sister June owns the adjacent nursery, where many of the rare and unusual herbaceous perennials, ornamental grasses and shade-loving plants found in the garden are on sale.

Glencarriff, Co. Cork

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