

## NO SUN, BUT ALL SMILES IN STROKETOWN

The Strokestown croquet club recently hosted a group from Northern Ireland at a fun introduction to the game of golf croquet. The group of more than 20 was from the National Association of Headteachers.

They came to tour Strokestown Park House and the Irish National Famine Museum. For something of a lighter nature, they had requested a round of croquet in the Walled Garden, which Strokestown Park generously provides for the weekly use of the Strokestown Croquet club.



First, an introduction to golf croquet, the equipment and two courts; then they picked up mallets to see if they could hit the ball rather than the ground or the air. With remarkable speed, they improved in their aims, while the onlookers cheered them around the course. Four members of the Strokestown Croquet Club gave suggestions, and, more importantly, they kept the players hitting in the right color ball, and following the correct hoop order. A light sprinkle and wet courts did not dampen the enthusiasm of this energetic group. *Quiet* and *reserved* were not terms that come to mind in describing their attitude.

We felt like croquet ambassadors and were happy to host our neighbors to the north for such a fun event, especially since it appears that there are no croquet clubs in Northern Ireland.



Members of the National Association of Headteachers from Northern Ireland