



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

February 2020 to April 2020

PRAEGER CENTRE EVENTS

Members are invited to bring specimens for examination and demonstration.

* MEMBERSHIP FEES *

All membership fees for 2020 were due on 1st January 2020

€25.00 for individuals, and €30.00 for a family.

To arrange payment contact: Fridolin Kerr, 31 Cherrywood Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
(Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net).

You may pay, via www.dnfc.net, by PayPal (including credit card).

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OUTING DETAILS FEBRUARY 2020 TO APRIL 2020

The DNFC Workshops in the National Botanic Gardens will take place on the first Saturday of each month in the period February 2020-April 2020. Events begin promptly at **11.00 a.m.** Members may wish to meet and chat beforehand in the coffee shop of the gardens. The exact species under consideration on each day will depend on the season. Members may bring pressed or fresh material for discussion or display. Specimens of rare, threatened or vulnerable species should not be collected. Each topic will be introduced by a member, followed by an examination of material and discussion. By now many members are using the recently-published (2019) 4th edition of the *New Flora of the British Isles* by Clive Stace. The attention of members is also directed to the 5-volume set *Flora of Great Britain and Ireland* by Peter Sell and Gina Murrell published by CUP.

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY **Praeger Day, Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin**

Morning Session

Locating, Interpreting and Understanding Old Botanical Records.

Large numbers of significant botanical records from Ireland were created in the 19th and early 20th centuries, many of which are not included in any of the modern digitised searchable data bases. However, a substantial number of these records can now be traced in papers and notes in the digitised versions of the journals in which they originally appeared.

To understand these records and the typographical (and topographical) conventions of the time(s), as well as then current taxonomic issues, examples will be considered, which will be of particular relevance to compilers of county check lists and other primary researchers.

The prime starting point of reference will be Robert L. Praeger's *Irish Topographical Botany* (1901), which is now available in print-to-order form. The introductory chapters and the bibliographical checklist are of considerable value to researchers.

Afternoon Session

Recent Books

A number of recently-published books have appeared which have a direct relevance to botanical recording in Ireland. These include:

The Burren by David Cabot and Roger Goodwillie (New Naturalist)

Mountain Flowers by Michael Scott (Bloomsbury – British Wildlife Collection)

Yorkshire Hawkweeds by Vincent Jones (published by the Yorkshire Naturalist's Union)

Members are invited to bring other books and papers of interest for display and discussion.

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

Bryophytes, Glencree, Co Wicklow

This will be a joint outing with the Irish Bryophyte Group. We will look at 'urban' bryophytes around the cemetery and buildings, and additional species in the adjacent woodland and river.

Leader: Joanne Denyer

Bring: Hand lens, warm clothes and lunch.

Directions: Take the M50 then the N11/M11 Southbound heading towards Bray, and then take the exit for Bray/Enniskerry (J7). As you go onto the roundabout, take first exit (for Enniskerry) In Enniskerry keep right as you drive through the village (passing the monument on your left hand side) and then go straight on, following this steep road as it goes out of the village and climbs uphill into the Glencree Valley. The journey on this road will take about 15 minutes from Enniskerry. About half way up you will pass a church and a school on the right-hand side before you arrive at the Centre at the top of the valley.

WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

Geology, Geological Survey Ireland,

Dublin

An exposition on **Dublin's Quaternary Records: Mountains and coasts**

CANCELLED

SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

Bird outing, Bull Island

We hope to see a variety of ducks (Wigeon, Shoveler, Teal, Pintail) and waders (Redshank, Greenshank, Godwits, Curlew, etc.) as well as Brent Geese.

Leader: Jim Fitzharris

Bring: The usual warm waterproof clothes, binoculars and lunch, walking shoes or trainers should be sufficient footwear .

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

Praeger Day, Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Morning Session

Maps and Mapping

The availability of modern digitised mapping and contemporary aerial photographic products provide a wonderful resource when combined with GPS, for geo-referencing plant records. Earlier paper maps include much additional topographical information and their cartographic conventions and stylistic nuances provide indications and insights as to the locations of old records. Examples of many maps used in the 19th and 20 centuries will be examined, and where possible related to the field work of the botanists of the time. These will include (in facsimile) some of the topographical mappings of the pre-Ordnance Survey of Ireland era, leading on to the many very useful modern maps subsequently prepared by the OSI and private companies.

Afternoon Session

Taraxacum

Our botanical recorders have been collecting and preserving *Taraxacum* material (Dandelions) in 2018/9 for submission to Prof. A.J.Richards, the BSBI referee for *Taraxacum*. The results of these endeavours will be presented and the specimens determined by AJR will be exhibited and discussed. Members should procure and bring copies of the BSBI Handbook **Dandelions** by Dudman and Richards, plus any subsequent material published in scientific journals such as the BSBI **New Journal of Botany**.

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

Geology, Portrane and Donabate

This trip along the sea cliff walk between Portrane and Donabate will explore and explain the geology of the exposed rocks ranging from the Silurian and Ordovician ages through to the Carboniferous age. Along the way we will explore the flora and fauna of the adjoining banks and seashore.

Leader: P J Walls

Meet: Donabate railway Station eastern car park grid ref O 2246

Bring: lunch, drinks, headgear, walking sticks and boots. (OSI Discovery Series Map Sheets 50 & 43).

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

Historical walk around Leixlip, Co Kildare

The walk will include the Sileachan Valley, optionally St Catherine's Park and the Royal Canal towpath between Leixlip Confey and Leixlip Louisa Bridge railway stations on the Maynooth commuter train service.

Leader: John Colgan

Meet: at the Toll House on Leixlip Bridge (the bridge that crosses over the Liffey.)

Bring: Comfortable shoes and warm clothes

Any no.66 bus going to or through Leixlip from terminus in Merrion Square will get you to the meeting point. If you wish to travel by train from Connolly Station you need to get off at Leixlip Confey. From Confey it is about a 10 minute walk to the village.

Members may be interested to know that John has written a substantial history of Leixlip, covering 92 topics over 300 pages and as many illustrations. It is called "Leixlip, County Kildare" (2005) and is in the NLI and other libraries.

TURSDAY 4TH APRIL

Praeger Day, Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Morning Session

The Vegetation Ecology of North Bull Island. Presenter: Melinda Lyons

Ancient and current biogeography of Ireland's native conifers, and their principal historical uses. Presenter: Charles Shier

Afternoon Session

Grasses – especially *Elymus/Elytrigia*

SATURDAY 11TH April Ballygannon People's Millennium Forest, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow

We will walk around the forest at Ballygannon, which is part of the ancient Vale of Clara forest. Ballygannon was "restored" to native acid oak forest as part of the People's Millennium Forest Project in 2000. We will see how the forest has developed in the 20 years since.

We will be following a walking track, muddy in parts, moderate difficulty.

Leader: Dr. Aileen O'Sullivan, Ecologist, Coillte

Meet: Car Park, Ballygannon People's Millennium Forest

Directions to car park: From Rathdrum village, take the R765 road northwards, in the direction of Laragh/Glendalough. About 1km from Rathdrum the car park is on your right. As you approach the car park, there are old stone walls on either side of the road and you will see oak trees on your left. There is a small sign on the left indicating the car park; it has the People's Millennium Forest logo.

PLEASE TAKE CARE when driving and especially when trying to locate the car park, as the road at that point is narrow and winding.

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

Praeger Centre, Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

The AGM of Dublin Naturalist's Field Club.

A separate notice will issue in respect of this meeting.

ADVANCE NOTICE

A meeting for members of the Federation of Irish Field Clubs (FIFC) 2-Day Outing to the Ards Peninsula, Co. Down on 30th & 31st May 2020

Sat 30th May: Guided tour of Portaferry; visit to QUB Marine Research Centre; birds and botany at Kearney

Sun 31st May: Greyabbey; visit to a Cistercian Abbey; Mountstewart House and Gardens (National Trust).

The meeting will be based in Portaferry and a Saturday evening meal is to be arranged at Portaferry Sailing Club.