



# THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

## PROGRAMME of EVENTS

### October 2021 to December 2021

Dear Members,

There is one online presentation on this programme and members can connect to it using desktop or laptop computers, tablets or smartphones. An email connection to the presentation will be sent to members during the week before the presentation. There are two ways to join the DNFC presentations on Zoom:

1. **By using your browser.** You can click on the link that will be sent to you by email. You may be asked to input a passcode which is included on the email;
2. **By using the Zoom App,** which can be downloaded from the App store (iPhone) or from the play store (Android). In the App, click on 'Join Meeting' and enter the Meeting ID and the Passcode, both of which will be included on the email.

Please note that for security reasons you will initially enter a 'Zoom Waiting Room'. The Host will then let you into the DNFC Presentation. The Link will be live for 10 minutes before the presentation is due to start.

If you are a member but not registered to receive emails from DNFC, and would like to join the presentations, then please send your email address to the Membership Secretary, Fridolin Kerr, at: [Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net](mailto:Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net) before 31st October, 2021.

**\*MEMBERSHIP FEES\***

All membership fees for 2022 are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022

**€25.00 (individual), €30 (family) and €5 (fulltime student)**

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

You may pay, *via* [www.dnfc.net](http://www.dnfc.net), by PayPal (including credit card).



Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	9th	October	Exploration of Massey's Wood	Sunniva Hanley	Dublin
Saturday	23rd	October	Walk along Camac River	Julian Reynolds	Dublin
Saturday	6th	November	Autumn Colour at Emo - Conifers & Other Trees	Charles Shier	Co. Laois
Thursday	18th	November	The biogeography of waterweeds.	Ursula King	Online
Saturday	27	November	Bryophytes for beginners	Joanne Denyer	Cruagh Wood, Dublin

Saturday	11th	December	Bird outing	Jim Fitzharris	Bull Island, Dublin
Sunday	26th	December	Walk along South wall	David Nash	Dublin

### Outing details October 2021 to December 2021

#### SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2021

#### Field outing to Massey's Wood

This will be a general exploration of the woodlands in late autumn.

**Leader:** Sunniva Hanley.

**Bring:** Field lens, identification books and lunch. Wear warm layers, waterproofs and Walking shoes/boots. Paths can be muddy in places, especially after rain.

#### Directions

Exit 12 on M50,

Drive in direction Firhouse/Ballycullen/R113 for 500m.

Turn left onto R113, straight through 2 roundabouts and continue for 2km.

Turn right onto Kilakee Road/Old Military Road/R115 and continue for 1km.

Hell Fire Club car park will be on the right.

**Note: Members, please make sure that you leave nothing on display in your car to entice thieves to break in while you are away on your walk.**

#### SATURDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2021

#### The Camac River, a forgotten river in Dublin.

A walk along parts of the river above-ground to observe the stream and riparian ecology and the problems involved in restoration of urban water-courses. **(Risk Level 1)**

**Leader:** Julian Reynolds

#### NOTES

Dublin city council has a policy of revitalising its urban streams. The Camac is a test case, flowing partly underground or through narrow concrete channels between buildings.

Its upper course is in South County Dublin's territory, requiring careful joint agreements.

The Camac rises in Ballinascorney Gap, flowing down through Corcagh Park and Clondalkin. It enters Dublin City's jurisdiction close to the N7, passes under the M50 and enters a steep glacial valley in Landsdowne Park, now a park. It then goes underground under the Grand Canal, emerging briefly in a continuation of the same valley before diving underground in Inchicore Industrial Estate. It emerges again and passes down a weir, the millstream from which is largely destroyed, and flows between two modern apartment complexes at the Tramyard before passing under the old bridge on Kilmainham Road. It passes between Richmond Park sports ground and a park containing the remnants of the millrace (the millpond is long filled in), and flows on under Kilmainham and Bow Bridges, then behind the HEA building and underneath Heuston Station, passing through an arch into the Liffey.

**SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2021**

**Field Meeting – Co. Laois**

**Autumn Colour at Emo - Conifers & Other Trees**

Emo Court is a neo-classical mansion designed by James Gandon and built in 1790 for John Dawson, the first Earl of Portarlington. The house is surrounded by parkland that was first laid out in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and contains formal lawns, a lake and woodland walks with many very fine specimen trees. We will take a looped walk through the grounds and have a look at the collection of mature conifers and other broadleaved trees. **(Risk Level 1)**

**Leader:** Charles Shier

**Bring:** Outdoor clothing, footwear suitable for venturing off the paths, floras. There is a tea room/café at Emo Court but check on the website ( <https://emocourt.ie> ) if it is open.

**Directions:** Exit the M7 at Junction 15 and follow the signs for the R422 to Emo and Mountmellick. In the centre of Emo Village, turn right into Emo Estate and then bear left after passing the Craft Centre and follow the road for 1.5 km to the car park beside the House.

**Thursday 18TH NOVEMBER 2021**

**Online Presentation**

**Speaker:** Ursula King  
**The biogeography of waterweeds**

Ursula's research work has focused on aquatic macrophytes, (an aquatic plant that grows in or near water and is either emergent, submergent, or floating). After completing a research Master's on the genetics of European populations of the rare freshwater species, *Najas flexilis* (Slender Naiad) at TCD, she later went on to do a PhD on *Najas* and *Hydrilla* (Hydrocharitaceae) at the University of Connecticut.

She recently completed a Biodiversity Audit Project for TCD and is currently teaching Plant Science to horticultural students with Teagasc.

Ursula's talk will be a general introduction to this interesting group of aquatic plants touching on life-history traits, pollination ecology, invasiveness and biogeography.

**SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2021**

**Bryophytes, Cruagh Wood, Dublin**

**Beginners Bryophyte Walk**

This site has conifer woodland, heathland and wetland habitats and supports a wide range of woodland and upland bryophytes. We will walk through the woodland and look at any bryophytes we find. All are welcome to attend, and it will be aimed specifically at beginners.. **(Risk Level 2)**

**Leader:** Joanne Denyer

**Bring:** A hand lens if you have one, but there will be some to borrow on the day. If you have any identification books bring them along also. Wrap up well and wear strong boots/shoes

**Directions**

From the city centre, take the N81 south, direction Blessington. At Terenure continue straight on in the direction of Rathfarnham. The village is bypassed but continue on straight until you reach a right hand junction with a church on one side and yellow House opposite. Turn right here on to Ballyboden

road. After 2kms or so the road forks with the R116 straight ahead. Continue on straight and after approx. 4 kms you reach the third class road on which Cruagh Wood car park is situated.

**Note: Members, please make sure that you leave nothing on display in your car to entice thieves to break in while you are away on your walk.**

**SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2021**

**Bird outing, Bull Island**

We would hope to see a variety of ducks (Wigeon, Shoveler, Teal, Pintail) and waders (Redshank, Greenshank, Godwits, Curlew, etc) as well as Brent Geese. **(Risk Level 1)**

**Leader:** Jim Fitzharris

**Bring:** Warm clothes and wear strong footwear.

**Sunday 26TH DECEMBER**

**St. Stephen's Day walk**

Walk along South Wall to Poolbeg Lighthouse to disperse any Christmas cobwebs. **(Risk level 1)**

**Leader:** David Nash

**Bring:** Suitable footwear and clothing. The South Wall has little shelter from the elements.