



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

April to June 2022

Dear Members,

The A.G.M. will be held online on 21st May and members can connect to it using desktop or laptop computers, tablets or smartphones. An email connection to the meeting will be sent to members during the week before the A.G.M. 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 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 before 14th May, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All membership fees for 2022 were due on 1st January 2022

€25.00 for individuals, €30.00 for a family, €5 for students.

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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MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

A booking system has been introduced for all Club activities at Registration@dnfc.net managed by the Events Secretary and, in line with COVID-19 traceability requirements and GDPR obligations, all names and contact data associated with the booking system will be held for a period of 28 days.

The booking system for all indoor and outdoor events will open 14 days prior to the event taking place, or immediately Club Members have been informed of the event if the lead time is less than 14 days. The booking system will close 2 days before the event takes place, in order to give sufficient time for compilation and communication of the participant list.

Student membership

We have introduced a third type of membership for students. The current rate for a fulltime student is €5. If applying for fulltime student membership please provide the name of the institution and course title on your application form.

Saturday 9th April

Ticknock Forest

We will look at Conifer plantations in the Dublin Mountains which have been clearfelled and are undergoing transition to native woodland under the Forest Service Native Woodland Scheme. We will look at the ground conditions, the existing vegetation and the process to assess the most suitable native woodland type for a particular site. We will also look at the constraints, and the measures required to facilitate the establishment of native woodland species.

Leader: Katharine Duff

Meet: Ticknock Forest Upper Car Park

Bring: Bring identification books, and a hand lens if you have one & lunch.
(Risk level 1)

Tuesday 19th April 2022

Redrock, Howth

This outing is part of the projected coastal ecology series of events. These events are intended to demonstrate some of the ecological processes that govern or influence the composition of the indigenous flora of the Dublin coast. In addition, we hope to confirm and record the occurrence of certain rare species, in order that future generations of botanists will be able to monitor their conservation status.

The vegetation communities of Redrock on the south side of Howth are of some interest, by virtue of the number of rare winter annuals known from there growing on the very shallow soils covering the protruding bedrock. These rare vegetation communities are threatened in various parts of Ireland, usually as a result of encroachment by *Ulex* scrub, following the removal of grazing.

These communities of species require particular protection measures and to this end a planned grazing scheme is being undertaken, using goats, to retard selectively these incursions and maintain an open habitat for a number of nationally rare clover species such as *Ornithopus perpusillus*, as well as *Erodium moschatum*, and *Stellaria pallida* in natural conditions.

Melissa will demonstrate the organisation of the various goat grazing regimes and opportunity will be taken to ascertain whether any new colonies of the rarer clovers can be found in the immediate vicinity.

Leaders: Melissa Jeuken, Declan Doogue

Meet: at St. Fintan's Church, Sutton from where we will briefly examine the adjoining shoreline flora.
We will then proceed to the site by car to meet Melissa. It may be necessary to share lifts as parking spaces may be limited.
(Risk level 1)

Saturday 23rd April 2022

Woodland outing in Laois

Mark McCorry & Fiona Mac Gowan, longtime DNFC members and BSBI VCRs (Vice County Recorders) for Laois invite you to join them for a walk through their favourite areas of woodland along the River Nore near Durrow in the south of the county: Course and Knockatrina Woods. Timed so that we should hopefully see both the blue and white carpets of bluebells and wild garlic but also the beautiful show put on by the River Nore speciality here: the summer snowdrop. Our walk will take us through two areas of woodland that are different in character with a mix of alluvial, mixed broadleaved and some coniferous area with the Nore being our constant companion.

Leaders: Mark McCorry and Fiona Mac Gowan

Meet: at Castlewood Organic Farm & Tearooms www.castlewoodfarm.ie (where it has been arranged that Tea/Coffee and scones will be served to those who are interested before setting off). Following refreshments we will drive the 2 km to Coillte's Dunmore woods carpark near the start of our walk along the Nore at the nearby Course Wood.

Bring: Bring warm waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, and lunch.

Directions

By car: Take the M7 and leave the motorway at exit 17 and follow the N77 for 20km through Abbeyleix and towards Durrow turning left at the blue sign for Castlewood Organic Farm and Tearooms (If you pass Dunnes Garden Centre on the right you've just passed your turn-off!) Follow this country lane to the end (approx 1.5km) to reach the Farm.
(Risk level 1)

Saturday 30th April 2022

Geology, Howth

Professor Chew is a Professor in Geology at Trinity College Dublin. He teaches in the fields of structural geology and tectonics. Much of his research is in the fields of geochronology and geochemistry, with diverse applications such as determining the evolution of ancient sediment routing systems, constraining the timing and evolution of ore systems, and constraining the growth and exhumation of mountain belts using a wide variety of modern analytical techniques.

The outing will begin on the North side of Howth at Balscadden Bay where we will spend a couple of hours. We will then move to the south side of Howth at Jamesons Bay. High tide is at 3 pm.

Leader: Professor David Chew

Meet: at Balscadden Bay.

Bring: Bring warm waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one, and lunch. The outing will finish at approximately 4 p.m.
(Risk level 1)

Jamesons Bay: <https://www.google.com/maps/dir//53.3661207,-6.0701672/@53.3657904,-6.0700948,678m/data=!3m1!1e3>

Saturday 7th May 2022

St. Anne's Park, Raheny

The outing will look at Spring flowers and early insects. (There will be an opportunity to visit the farmers market afterwards for those interested).

Leader: Philip Grant

Meet: at the entrance by Bull Island Causeway
Parking is restricted at the Bay and members are asked to share cars to the bay.

Bring: Bring identification books, and a hand lens if you have one & lunch.
(Risk level 1)

Saturday 14th May 2022

Wicklow Head

In search of *Scilla verna*.

Confined to a small area of rocky coast, we will look for *Scilla verna* and examine the surrounding coastal vegetation community.

Leader: Catriona Brady

Meet: Glen Beach cliff walk car park. Located on Dunbur Road, R750 South of Wicklow town

Bring: Bring identification books and a hand lens if you have one & lunch. Walking boots essential. This meeting will end at approx. 1p.m. Leader will direct you to some nearby interesting places if you wish to extend your visit.
(Risk level 2)

Tuesday 17th May 2022

North Bull Island

This outing is part of the coastal ecology series of events.

The sand dunes of North Bull Island contain nationally rare plant species of ecological interest including several which flower in late spring / early summer. Some of these were

once common on the Dublin coast but their distributions have become much reduced due to loss of habitat. The south part of the island holds significant populations of *Salvia verbenaca*, *Trifolium occidentale*, *T. scabrum*, *Cerastium arvense* and *Linum bienne*. We will look at the vegetation types in which these plants occur and the conditions necessary for their continued survival.

Leader: Melinda Lyons

Meet: in front of the Royal Dublin Golf Club at the south end of the island.
Access the island via the Wooden Bridge.

Bring: lunch.

(Risk level 1)

Saturday 21st May 2022

Online AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held online. A separate notice will issue to members in relation to this.

Saturday 28th May 2022

Blessington lakeshore, Wicklow

The outing will consist of a gentle walk on a good footpath to look at aspects of West Wicklow geology and the effects on the landscape of the creation of the Blessington Lakes 80 years ago.

Leader: Christopher Moriarty

Meet: at lakeside car park near Pollaphuca, on left 5 km south of Blessington village. The outing will finish at approximately 13.30. We can picnic beside the carpark or go for restaurant lunch and a heap of culture available nearby at Russborough.

Bring: Bring warm waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, binoculars and lunch.

Directions

By car: Take the N83 through Tallaght and Blessington. Car park is on the left 5 km South of Blessington

(Risk level 1)

Tuesday 7th June 2022

The Flora of Dublin Business Park, and Prospect Cemetery Glasnevin

Business parks and small industrial estates have a distinct flora, due in part to their relatively warmer microclimate. This is induced by the high degree of built surfaces and hence limited soakage, the reflectivity of the buildings and the manner in which rainfall is conveyed rapidly

off site. These areas are therefore colonised by a number of warmth-requiring dry-ground plant species, some of which have subsequently spread to other situations nearby. The meeting will also visit the nearby Glasnevin Cemetery to examine the status of the flora of many of the weedkiller-cleared areas.

Leader: Declan Doogue

Meet: at Woodies Car Park, Glasnevin (Slaney Road, opposite Glasnevin Cemetery.)
(Risk level 1)

Saturday 18th June

Joint Outing to Carlingford

This will be a joint outing with the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club to Carlingford. In the morning we will visit King John's Castle, which overlooks the harbour, and other historical sites in the town. In the afternoon we will examine the botany and ecology along the Carlingford to Omeath Greenway and at other sites if time permits. The Greenway commences at Carlingford Marina, which is 1 km NW of the town.

Leaders: Morning – BNFC
Afternoon – Kate Harrington & Cliona Byrne

Meet: at the Tourist Information Centre on the waterfront.

Lunch: Participants can bring a packed lunch, have lunch at one of the many cafes in town, or at The Rabello at Carlingford Marina <https://www.rabelo.ie/>

Fees: There is a €5 admission fee for tours of the castle. There is parking at the Carlingford Marina and you will need a €2 coin to exit.

(Risk level 1)

Saturday 25th June 2022

Donabate and Corballis Coast

This outing is part of the coastal ecology series of events.

The dune system and semi-enclosed associated saltmarsh at Corballis incorporates a number of separate habitat types in close proximity, with subsequent differences reflected in their flora. These include upper and lower saltmarsh, outer and inner sand dunes, dune slacks and the remnants of the flora of the sandy fallows – areas which were occasionally tilled in the past and then let rest.

Leader: Declan Doogue

Meet : near the entrance to the Island Golf Course SE of Donabate.

Bring: lunch.

(Risk level 1)

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader/Presenter	Location
Saturday	9-4-2022	April	Conifer Plantations and their transition to native woodland	Katy Duff	Ticknock Forest, Dublin
Tuesday	19-4-2022	April	Coastal Ecology	Declan Doogue and Melissa Jeuken	Howth, Dublin
Saturday	23-4-2022	April	Woodland outing	Mark McCorry and Fiona Mac Gowan	Laois
Saturday	30-4-2022	April	Geology	Professor David Chew	Howth, Dublin
Saturday	7-5-2022	May	Spring Flora and insects	Philip Grant	St. Annes's Park, Raheny, Dublin
Saturday	14-5-2022	May	In search of Scilla verna	Catriona Brady	Wicklow Head, Wicklow
Tuesday	17-5-2022	May	Coastal ecology	Melinda Lyons	North Bull Island, Dublin
Saturday	21-5-2022	May	A.G.M.	DNFC Committee	Online
Saturday	28-5-2022	May	Blessington lakeshore: Geology	Christopher Moriarty	Blessington, Wicklow
Tuesday	7-6-2022	June	Flora of Dublin Business Park, and Prosopect Cemetery	Declan Doogue	Glasnevin, Dublin
Saturday	18-6-2022	June	Joint outing to Carlingford	Belfast and DNFC Club	Carlingford, Louth
Saturday	25-6-2022	June	Coastal ecology	Declan Doogue	Donabate and Corballis Coast, Dublin