



# THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

## PROGRAMME of EVENTS

### July-September 2022

Dear Members,

#### \*MEMBERSHIP FEES\*

All membership fees for 2022 were due on 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net)).

You may pay, via [www.dnfc.net](http://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](mailto: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 2nd July 2022**

**Offaly**

This outing is to Island Fen, Clareen, Co. Offaly, an area of Juniper scrub, rough grassland and fen.

**Leader:** Fiona Devery

**Meet:** Woodfield Cafe and Garden Centre, Birr.

**Bring:** Bring waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one & lunch. **(Risk level 1)**

**Saturday 9th July 2022**

**Farm visit, Kilpeddar, Wicklow**

Kitty Heslin and Jerry Crowley will host an outing to their farm near Kilpeddar. On this visit we will see traditional hay meadows, permanent pasture, some planted oak

forests. At this time the meadows are still in flower and if we are lucky we will see the rare Forester moth which will be on wing at this time .

**Bring:** Identification books, a hand lens if you have one & lunch.  
Tea and Coffee will be supplied by our hosts. **(Risk level 1)**

**Tuesday 19th July 2022**

**Portrane, Dublin**

Continuing our series of outings exploring the flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast, we have three outings planned (the other two outings are to Balbriggan, 30 August, and Rogerstown Estuary, 6 September). In addition to examining an interesting selection of coastal plants, we will also concern ourselves with patterns of species combinations in relation to ecological gradients. We begin by looking at the impact of erosion on the outer dunes at Portrane as well as the less disturbed areas further north, where a significant sand dune flora still survives.

**Leader:** Melinda Lyons

**Bring:** lunch, hand lens, floras. **(Risk level 1)**

**Saturday 6th August 2022**

**Rockpools, Seapoint, Dublin**

Although mainly focused on insects, Nessa has recently been learning about coastal creatures. There is always something new to find at Seapoint. On recent visits sea hares, sea squirts, hermit crabs, blennies, bryozoans and various sea snails have been seen.

**Leader:** Nessa Darcy

**Bring:** identification books, lens and lunch if you want to stay on. Sturdy footwear is advised as rocks can be slippery. **(Risk level 1)**

**Saturday 13th August 2022**

**Farm visit, Kildare**

We will take a broad look at the natural history to be found on a working farm.

**Leader:** Anthony Mooney.

**Bring:** Identification books, hand lens and lunch. **(Risk level 1)**

**Tuesday 16th August 2022**

**Water plants of the Boyne**

This meeting will focus on the identification of aquatic plants. Participants are encouraged to assemble fresh or pressed material prior to the meeting so that we may all benefit from the collective knowledge within the group. Field work will start at Slane where the Boyne River

and canal are readily accessible. Depending on time and weather there are several other nearby sites within the Boyne catchment that may be visited in the afternoon.

**Leader:** Margaret Norton

**Bring:** Lunch, hand lens, identification books and plant grab/hook if available. **(Risk level 1)**

### **Saturday 20th August 2022**

### **Offaly**

Mark Mc Corry will lead an outing to Mountlucas Windfarm in Co. Offaly

<https://goo.gl/maps/Ko7RmxzihcMxKThF7>

The cutaway bog here has been developing for about 30 years and has a nice flora.

Most of the peat has been removed so the underlying limestone-based sub-soil is having a strong influence on the developing ecology.

The old gravel pit has a particularly diverse flora.

If the sun is out, we should see some nice butterflies and other insects.

We will walk down to the old gravel pit looking at the cutaway bog along the way, altogether this will be 2 km.

**Leader:** Mark McCorry

**Bring:** Bring waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one & lunch. Walking shoes or hiking boots should be adequate. **(Risk level 1)**

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

### **Hedgerows, Dublin**

Mary is an Environmental/Ecological consultant with a particular interest in Community based initiatives to support sustainable development. Over a research/consultancy career spanning four decades, Mary has been involved in projects concerned with tourism, forestry, farming and spatial planning in the uplands. She is a board member of the Irish Uplands Forum and the Heritage Council.

This outing will look at the last remaining hedgerows in the city near the M50 at Ballymun and also man-made ditches within 200 m where *Tolypella intricata* has been found. Mary has been working on a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Ballymun Biodiversity Focus Group and this will be an opportunity to meet with this group who are also very enthusiastic to meet with DNFC members.

**Leader:** Dr. Mary Tubridy

**Bring:** Field identification books, lens and lunch **(Risk level 1)**

**Tuesday 30th August 2022**

**Balbriggan, Dublin**

**Flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast:** coastal plants and patterns of species combinations in relation to ecological gradients. We will visit sand dunes close to the station and an area of wetland marked as Isaac's Bower on the OS map, south of the town.

**Leader:** Melinda Lyons

**Bring:** lunch, hand lens, floras. Ground wet and uneven in places - hiking boots recommended. **(Risk level 1)**

**Tuesday 6th September 2022**

**Rogerstown Estuary, Dublin**

**Flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast:** coastal plants and patterns of species combinations in relation to ecological gradients. We will inspect the flora of the saltmarsh on the south side of Rogerstown Estuary.

**Leader:** Declan Doogue

**Bring:** Lunch, hand lens, floras. **(Risk Level 1)**

**Saturday 10th September 2022**

**Bull Island, Dublin**

### **Butterflies and General**

We will visit the Alder Marsh to see the larval webs of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly which are visible at this time of year and are the stage of the butterfly most often used to survey this beautiful and increasingly rare insect. We should also see some late summer flying butterflies such as Whites, Common Blues, Meadow Browns, Small Heaths and hopefully migrant Painted Ladies and Red Admirals all feasting on the carpet of flowering Devil's-bit Scabious. The Marsh Fritillary on Bull Island is of special interest to us as it was only discovered some ten years ago by Club member Frank Smyth, not having been recorded in the Dublin area for several decades.

Some moth larvae are also likely to be seen.

**Leader:** Niamh Lennon

**Bring:** Identification books, Hand Lenses and lunch. **(Risk level 1)**

**Saturday 17th September 2022**

**Killyconny Bog, Meath**

We will see the Results of Coillte LIFE project (2004-2008); this is older than the project at Girley Bog which we visited earlier this year. Also, the results of a marginal dam built along edge of cutover bog in c.2007/08, the area has largely rewetted well with good Sphagnum regeneration. Other things to see will be the results of cell bunding constructed in 2021. All of this should lead to a good discussion on Greenhouse Gas measurements being recorded at Killyconny Bog. We will visit another site in the afternoon, possibly a fen site near Clonmellon.

**Leaders:** Maurice Eakin & Jonathan Shackleton

**Bring:** Identification books, Hand Lenses and lunch. **(Risk level 2)**  
**It is advisable to wear strong boots as we will be in uneven ground.**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Leader/ Presenter</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday	2nd	July	Visit to Island Fen, Clareen, Co. Offaly.	Fiona Devery	Offaly
Saturday	9th	July	An outing to a farm in Kilpeddar.	Kitty Heslin & Jerry Crowley	Wicklow
Tuesday	19th	July	Flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast.	Melinda Lyons	Portrane, Dublin
Saturday	6th	August	Rockpools	Nessa Darcy	Seapoint, Dublin
Saturday	13th	August	Farm visit in Kildare	Anthony Mooney	Kildare
Tuesday	16th	August	Water plants of the Boyne River, Meath	Margaret Norton	Meath
Saturday	20th	August	An outing to Mountlucas Windfarm in Co. Offaly	Mark McCorry	Offaly
Saturday	27th	August	Hedgerows	Mary Tubridy	Ballymun, Dublin
Tuesday	30th	August	Flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast	Melinda Lyons	Balbriggan, Dublin
Tuesday	6th	Sept.	Flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast	Declan Doogue	Rogerstown Dublin
Saturday	10th	Sept.	Butterflies and General	Niamh Lennon	Bull Island, Dublin
Saturday	17th	Sept.	Killyconny Bog	Maurice Eakin & Jonathan Shackleton	Meath