



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

January 2023 to March 2023

Dear Members,

There are three online presentations on this programme and members can connect to them 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 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 6th January, 2023.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All membership fees for 2023 are due on 1st January 2023

€25.00 for individuals, and €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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D.N.F.C. Workshops

The DNFC workshops are held in the National Botanic Gardens in the small room at the near end of the curvilinear range, by permission of the Director. They are normally scheduled to take place on the first Saturday of each month – though there may be some additional events, connected to the availability of visiting experts.

There is plenty of time to gather beforehand, and after, for coffee. There will be a short break for lunch. Participants are encouraged to bring hand lenses and relevant works of identification. Members are welcome to bring along any items they feel might be of interest.

SATURDAY 14th JANUARY 2023

Mount Lucas Wind Farm, Co. Offaly

This will be a joint outing with the Irish Bryology group (BBS). Mount Lucas is a wind farm on Bord na Móna cutaway bog. We will be exploring the bryophytes of regenerating bog and fen habitats.

Leader: George Smith

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

Directions See
<https://www.mountlucaswindfarm.ie/the-wind/>

THURSDAY 19th JANUARY

Online Presentation

“Some experiences of a long time Botanist”

Sylvia Reynolds was the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) vice-county recorder for Limerick from 1983 until early last year when she retired. She was a district recorder and co-editor for the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club's *Flora of County Dublin* (1998). She also published extensively on native plants in Limerick and on alien plants, including *A catalogue of alien plants in Ireland* (2002). She is a former president of the DNFC and former vice-president of the BSBI. *The Flora of County Limerick* published in 2012 is the outcome of over 30 years of her field work in the county with the assistance of her husband Julian D. Reynolds.

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY 2023

Carlingford, Co. Louth

Climbing Carlingford Mountain

Weather permitting, we will climb Carlingford Mountain. The geology of Carlingford Mountain gives rise to interesting ecological conditions and specialised upland/wetland habitats. At this time of the year, the range of plant species will be limited but bryophytes should be abundant, and we will look at the general habitat types and condition. The route is steep, wet and rugged - there is no path. Hiking boots and warm water-proof clothing are essential.

Leaders: Melinda Lyons & Pat Lenihan

Bring: hiking boots, waterproof clothing, hat, gloves, etc; lunch and warm drinks.

Note: in the event of bad weather, we will **EITHER** meet as planned at the car park and visit a different, less exposed area nearby **OR** if necessary, cancel the outing altogether. In the event of the outing being cancelled, members will be notified by email.

**SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2023 Praeger Centre, National Botanic,
Glasnevin**

D.N.F.C. Workshop: Strictly Members Only.

Using the Olympus Tough 6 Camera (Pat Lenihan). Many naturalists are now using this camera, particularly because of its close-up capabilities, enhanced by focus-stacking.

The evergreen horsetails and their hybrids - *Equisetum variegatum*, *E. hyemale*, *E. x trachyodon*, *E. x moorei*). (Declan Doogue, Rosaleen Fitzgerald). Various papers and books by Chris Page should be consulted in advance.

Mosses of the built environment (Melinda Lyons). We will examine some common mosses and liverworts of walls and disturbed ground, as an introduction to identifying bryophytes and becoming familiar with their characteristic features.

The Flora of Old Walls and Bridges (DNFC Poster exhibit).

Examples of some works by Carl Linnaeus (Declan)

Recent Books (Various contributors)

THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY, 2023

Online Presentation

“Pollinators, farms, science and policy”.

Stephanie Maher who gave us a wonderful presentation in August 2021 on “*the nesting ecology of ground-nesting solitary bees*” has agreed to follow that up with another presentation. This talk will discuss former and current agri-policy for pollinators in Ireland, its groundings in science and effectiveness as conservation measures. It will also cover the barriers to and potential for effective agri-environment measures into the future.

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2023

Portmarnock

Laila Higgins will lead a short rockpool trip in which we should see barnacles, anemones, limpets, periwinkles and whelks, probably a few crabs and if we're lucky a few rockpool fish. Following so soon after Nessa and company's trip this will be a chance to brush up on what you have already learned.

Leader: Laila Higgins

Bring: Warm clothes essential. Wellies are great and a wind proof jacket. Laila has suggested a change of clothes, particularly trousers socks and shoes. Buckets, sieves and small nets recommended, also clean microwave boxes are good. Also consider sun glasses and sunscreen.

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

**Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens,
Glasnevin**

D.N.F.C. Workshop: Members Only

Identifying Irish *Polypodium* species (Margaret Norton). The three species, *P. vulgare*, *P. interjectum* and *P. cambricum* which were formerly included within an aggregate taxon *P. vulgare*, will be examined. Members are directed to a significant paper by Shivas, M.G. (1962) The *Polypodium vulgare* complex. *British Fern Gazette* **9**: 65-70. which is available at: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/120269#page/78/mode/1up>

Conifers that reproduce in Ireland (Charles Shier)

Extracts from *Flora Londinensis* by William Curtis, with plates by Sowerby, Kilburn and others (Declan Doogue). There are good introductions to this work on Wikipedia and other web sources.

Taraxacum – an introduction (Declan Doogue, Rosaleen Fitzgerald). This introductory session is intended to introduce new member to the topic of dandelion research, initially by the technical business of collecting and preserving good-quality specimens (Rosaleen). Examples of pressed material from the different dandelion sections will be exhibited (Declan). This project will be continued through the year with related follow-up events. The new BSBI Handbook No. 23 – *Field Handbook to British and Irish Dandelions* by A. J. Richards will greatly assist and progress our understanding of this significant group of micro-species in Ireland.

Recent Books (Various contributors)

SATURDAY 11th MARCH 2023

Leixlip Spa and Waterfall

Leader: John Colgan

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

Directions: The Dublin to Maynooth Train stops at Louisa Bridge. Also the No. 52 Bus to Intel passes here as does the C3 bus to Maynooth. There is pay parking at the bridge or free parking on housing estate down the road from the bridge.

THURSDAY 16th MARCH 2023

Online Presentation

“Biodiversity Data – putting knowledge to good purpose”.

Declan Doogue vice president of the Field club will give an outline presentation using examples of biological recording in Ireland, through three centuries of citizen science, and suggesting how the current and very welcome enthusiasm for biological recording might be directed towards the actual protection and conservation of many of the remaining sites of significant ecological importance in Ireland. Starting with Caleb Threlkeld who wrote *Synopsis Stirpium Hibernicarum* 1726, through to Nathaniel Colgan Editor with R.W. Scully of 2nd edition of *Cybele Hibernica* 1898 and author of the *Flora of County Dublin* 1904. There will be time for questions and discussion. This will be a very interesting and informative presentation.

SATURDAY 25th MARCH 2023

Poolbeg, Dublin

Wader roost on the Great South Wall, Poolbeg

Wintering Sanderling, Dunlin and Turnstone gather in numbers at the high tide on the South Wall giving close-up views. We should see many other wader species and water birds in the River Liffey and the South Dublin Bay SPA.

Leader: Brian Gormley

Bring: Warm waterproof clothing, binoculars and a bird guide for a walk of 4.5 km along the South Wall, weather permitting.

Directions: From the roundabout on Sean Moore Road R131 take the exit on to South Bank Road keeping the container depot on your left. Take the next left and follow Pigeon House Road for 2.25 km around to the car park.

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader/ Presenter	Location
Saturday	14th	January	Bryophytes of regenerating bog and fen habitats	George Smith	Mount Lucas Wind Farm, Co. Offaly
Thursday	19th	January	<i>"Some experiences of a long time Botanist"</i>	Sylvia Reynolds	Online presentation
Saturday	21st	January	Climbing Carlingford Mountain	Melinda Lyons	Carlingford, Co Louth
Saturday	4th	February	Praeger Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens
Thursday	16th	February	<i>"Pollinators, farms, science and policy".</i>	Stephanie Maher	Online presentation
Saturday	18th	February	Rockpools	Laila Higgins	Portmarnock
Saturday	4th	March	Praeger workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens
Saturday	11th	March	Leixlip Spa and Waterfall	John Colgan	Leixlip
Thursday	16th	March	<i>"Biodiversity Data – putting knowledge to good purpose".</i>	Declan Doogue	Online presentation
Saturday	25th	March	Birds	Brian Gormley	Great South Wall, Poolbeg