



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
PROGRAMME of EVENTS
April 2023 to June 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).

Member's Day-17th June

Members are invited to bring along an Exhibit and put it on display in the upstairs hall at the National Botanic Gardens during Members' Day. Your exhibit could be from a project you are working on, or specimens you have collected, photographs, old books or maps. Indeed anything pertaining to Natural History that you think might be of interest to members would be appropriate.

DNFC Workshops

The DNFC workshops are held in the National Botanic Gardens. 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. Members may bring a lunch and take it in the room. This saves valuable time ensuring maximum benefit from the session. 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 1st April 2023

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

Plant Identification Workshops

Please bring hand lenses, forceps, and works of identification. Particularly useful for many of our identification workshops is the BSBI **Plant Crib** by Tim Rich, much of which is accessible through the BSBI Website.

White Crucifers by David Nash. We will concentrate on genera such as *Cardamine*, *Erophila*, *Capsella* and *Arabidopsis*. *Erophila verna* agg. (Spring Whitlow-grass) is a very

variable species complex and participants are requested to bring in own material of this and other taxa for discussion and identification. BSBI Handbook No. 6 **Crucifers of Great Britain and Ireland** by Tim Rich is a very useful, well-illustrated guide.

Taraxacum. Introduced by various members. As the Dandelion season unfolds, various members will present examples of fresh or preserved material, much of which has been identified by Prof. J. Richards. The DNFC has performed a significant preliminary role in furthering the study of this group in Ireland and we would wish to encourage members to join with us in this study, especially those visiting areas in NW and SW Ireland. Particularly useful is the recent BSBI publication **Field Handbook to British and Irish Dandelions** No.23 by A. J. Richards.

Afternoon Session.

Fumaria Part 1. An Introduction by Declan Doogue

This is intended as an introductory session, in advance of a more detailed presentation in our May workshop.

BSBI Handbook no. 12, *Fumitories of Britain and Ireland* by R. J. Murphy is the reference work for this group.

Book reviews and presentations

David Nash will introduce **Lough Carra**, by Chris and Lynda Huxley (2015). Lough Carra and its limestone hinterland is a significant lake area in Mayo which was visited by the DNFC some years ago.

Sinead Garry will discuss a new book, **Lakes of Cavan** by Hu O'Reilly (2022) which forms a very important inventory of aerial photographs of many significant lakes and their less well-known associated wetlands in the county.

TUESDAY 4th April 2023

**The Flora of Dublin City Centre
Risk level 1**

Leaders: Anangi Sumalde, Ciarán Flynn, Declan Doogue

In recent months we have been developing contact between members of the DNFC and students in TCD. This process has been guided by our new members Anangi Sumalde and Ciaran Flynn. In 1979, DNFC embarked on a survey of the flora of Dublin's Inner city, which was published by the RDS in 1984 (*Flora of Inner Dublin* by Peter Wyse Jackson and Micheline Sheehy Skeffington). We are now considering the possibility of re-surveying the flora and habitats of the city, and to this end we have included three events on our current programme which are particularly suitable for those wishing to learn some of the more identifiable species which occur naturally close to the city centre. Our new student members and others are very welcome to attend these events, which take place on Tuesdays. Participants should bring a hand lens, note book, camera and suitable clothing/footwear.

SATURDAY 15th April 2023

**Recording for the Supplement to the
Flora of County Wicklow- The Murrough,
Co. Wicklow-Risk level 2**

Our distinguished member J. P. Brunner produced his *Flora of the County Wicklow* over seventy years ago. It represented the outcome of his own researches from the previous three decades and drew together the records of others, as far back as the start of the

eighteenth century. In more recent times, we have been working on the preparation of a Supplement to Brunner's work, revisiting some of his well-known sites and checking to see which significant and indigenous species have survived. In addition, the present flora has been infiltrated by large numbers of opportunist and invasive species. This is the first of a series of recording events which will continue through the year.

The Murrough Wetlands SAC is a complex coastal system that supports a number of different vegetation communities. We will look out for spring-flowering plants and record the species as we walk north along the coast.

Leader: Sunniva Hanley

Bring: Waterproof clothing, sturdy walking shoes/boots, field lens, plant identification books, lunch & warm drink

TUESDAY, 18th April 2023.

**The Flora of Dublin City Centre
Risk level 1**

Leaders: Anangi Sumalde, Ciarán Flynn, Declan Doogue

SATURDAY 29th April 2023

**Walk in Devils Glen, Wicklow
Risk level 2**

Seamus Heaney Walk and Waterfall walk. A walk through mixed woodland looking at spring flowering plants.

Leader: Rosaleen Fitzgerald

Bring: Waterproof clothing, sturdy walking shoes/boots, field lens, plant identification books, lunch & warm drink

Directions Take N11/M11 south. At Junction 15 exit towards Ashford R772

SATURDAY 6th May 2023

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

Bring hand lenses, forceps and lunch.

Salix by Margaret Norton. Some common willows and their hybrids will be examined. Willows and Poplars of Great Britain and Ireland (BSBI Handbook No. 4 (Meikle 1984) is the standard reference work for this group.

Fumaria Part 2. Declan Doogue. A more detailed exploration of the Irish *Fumaria* species. Members are welcome to bring material for examination. (See April details above).

Taraxacum Updates will be presented by various DNFC Members. (See April details above)

Afternoon Session

The Origin and Formation of *Species Plantarum* (1753), by Carl Linnaeus. Presenter Declan Doogue

Book reviews

Nathaniel Colgan – The life, times and genealogy of an enigmatic Dubliner by John Colgan, will be discussed by David Nash. Nathaniel Colgan, author of the *Flora of County Dublin* (1904), was a major Irish botanist and President of DNFC (1914-16). John Colgan has led two DNFC trips to the Leixlip area recently.

Vascular plants and their habitats in County Leitrim and the obituary of its author, our former member Don Cotton (published in the Irish Naturalists Journal and the Journal of the Sligo Field Club) and compiled by Nigel Monahan. Sinead Garry will introduce us to these two publications.

SATURDAY 13th May 2023

**Geology, Loughshinny
Risk level 1**

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. Professor Chew led a wonderful outing last year and this time he will be looking at the folds and sedimentary structures in the Carboniferous rocks.

Leader: Prof. David Chew

Bring: Bring warm waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one, and lunch.

Directions: Bus No 33 serves this area. Your bus stop is at Loughshinny Cross to be followed by a walk down Loughshinny Park to the harbour.

Driving: Take M1 motorway following signs for Belfast. At junction 4 take R132 exit to Skerries/Rush/Donabate. Stay on this road till you get a sign for Dublin Rd, R127. At Dublin Road roundabout take 2nd exit onto Dublin Rd. Turn left at Station Rd. At the roundabout, continue straight onto **Skerries Rd/R127**. Turn **right** onto **L1285**. Continue straight onto **L1320 Loughshinny Park**.

Arrive: Loughshinny Harbour, Loughshinny, County Dublin

TUESDAY 16th May 2023 The Flora of Dublin City – the Banks of the Grand Canal.
Participants may wish to consider using rubber gloves when examining specimens and bring sanitiser to guard against Weils' Disease **Risk level 1**

Leaders: Anangi Sumalde, Ciarán Flynn, Declan Doogue

This outing, as part of the exploration of the flora of Inner Dublin will examine the flora of the

pavement and banks, but will also examine the true aquatic species present in the canal.

SATURDAY 27th May 2023

Joint BNFC/DNFC Outing visiting monastic sites in Monasterboice, Mellifont Abbey, and examining the botany and ecology of a looped walk taking in the Battle of Boyne site- Co Louth –Risk level 1

Leaders: Morning: Mike King, **BNFC Afternoon:** Tom Minitier & Charles Shier, **DNFC**

Bring: Warm waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one, and lunch.

Directions: Drive North on M1 and exit at junction 11 for Monasterboice on R132, Monasterboice monastic site, Bawntaaffe, Monasterboice, Co. Louth. **Grid ref: O043821 (See OS Discovery map or <https://irish.gridreferencefinder.com>)**

Tour of Monasterboice monastic site

Monasterboice is a fascinating monastic site with an impressive round tower and three high crosses, located in County Louth. The historic ruins of Monasterboice are of an early Christian monastic settlement, founded by Saint Buite (who died around 521). Little is known about the monastery except for a list of abbots (759-1122). Aerial survey has revealed the line of a large oval enclosure that was the original boundary of the monastery, which shows that it was larger than the present graveyard. It was an important religious centre until the establishment of nearby **Mellifont Abbey** by the Cistercians in 1142. Inside the present graveyard, there are two churches, a sundial and three early 10th-century high crosses, including the impressive Muiredach's Cross and the Tall Cross, both known as scripture crosses, owing to the remarkable biblical scenes carved on the sides. Muiredach's Cross is probably named after an abbot, Muiredach mac Domhnaill, who died in 923. The crosses stand in the shadow of a magnificent round tower, about 28 metres high and divided into four or more storeys inside, but is currently closed to the public.

Tour of Mellifont Abbey

Mellifont Abbey was the first Cistercian monastery in Ireland. St Malachy founded it in 1142 with the help of a small number of monks sent by St Bernard from Clairvaux. It has several extraordinary architectural features, the foremost of which is the two-storey octagonal lavabo, where the monks washed their hands before meals. The abbey became the model for other Cistercian abbeys built in Ireland, with its formal style of architecture imported from the abbeys of the same order in France. The monks at Mellifont hosted an important synod in 1152. Various kings gave donations to assist this foundation: Muirchertach Ua Lochlainn, king of Ulster, gave cattle, gold and also a local townland; Donnchad Ua Cearbhall, the king of Airgialla (Oriel), who had donated the land for the abbey, also gave gold, while Derbforgaill, the wife of Tigernan Ua Ruairc gave gold, a chalice and altar cloths. After its dissolution in 1539, the abbey became a private manor house. The Treaty of Mellifont, which ended the Nine Years War, was signed here in 1603, and William of Orange used the abbey as his headquarters prior the momentous Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Part of the ruined abbey houses a small museum of archaeological material, including decorated ceramic tiles.

Afternoon

Leaders: Tom Minter & Charles Shier.

We will examine the botany and ecology along a looped 3.6 km walk that takes in the Battle of the Boyne site, an overlooking ridge and a canal towpath. If anyone doesn't feel up to the walk, an alternative option is to visit the battle museum in Oldbridge House.

See attachment

- Battle of the Boyne Centre layout

SATURDAY 3rd June 2023

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

Plant Identification Workshops Bring hand lenses, forceps and lunch.

Morning

An introduction to **Myosotis** in Ireland by **Ciarán Flynn**

Equisetum – the deciduous species by **Declan Doogue**

An introduction to some interesting **Bryophytes** by **Melinda Lyons**

Afternoon

Early Bryophyte Illustrations by Declan Doogue

This will include exhibits of *Muscologiae Hibernicae Spicilegium* (Dawson Turner, 1804),

English Botany (Text by J. E. Smith / revised Johnson, illustrations by Sowerby 2nd edition, 1841)

Flora Londinensis (W. Curtis published serially from 1775) and *Hepaticae of the British Isles* (Pearson, 1902).

Magnifying glasses and hand lenses are advised.

Book reviews

The Shell Guide to the Irish Landscape by Frank Mitchell and *The Way that I Followed*, by the same author and former president of the DNFC (1947-48), will be introduced by **Rosaleen Fitzgerald** and **Declan Doogue**.

**SUNDAY 11TH JUNE 2023 Recording for the Supplement to the Flora of the County
Wicklow- Arklow, Co Wicklow- Risk level 1**

Leader: Declan Doogue

Recording will begin in the vicinity of the railway station and late comers will be able to find us nearby. After exploring sites in the town and harbour, we will proceed along the path following the banks of the Avoca River.

Bring lunch, identification books and rain gear.

SATURDAY 17th June 2023

AGM and Members Day at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

A separate programme in relation to the members day and the A.G.M. will issue. See note above (page 1) about exhibits.

SATURDAY 24th June 2023

Farm visit- Risk level 1

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.

WEDNESDAY 28th June

**Recording for the *Supplement to the Flora of the County Wicklow*-Kippure Bridge
Risk level 2**

The flora in the vicinity of Kippure Bridge will be recorded before heading off to explore further afield. Plant records will be contributed to the DNFC *Supplement to the Flora of Wicklow* project.

Leaders: Clíona Ní Bhréartúin and Margaret Norton.

Contact: DNFC WhatsApp.

Bring: Identification books, field lens, walking boots, raingear and lunch.

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader /Presenter	Location
Saturday	1st	April	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens
Tuesday	4th	April	The flora of Dublin City	Anangi Sumalde, Ciarán Flynn, Declan Doogue	Dublin
Saturday	15th	April	Recording for the <i>Supplement to the Flora of the County Wicklow</i>	Sunniva Hanley	Wicklow
Tuesday	18th	April	The flora of Dublin City	Anangi Sumalde, Ciarán Flynn, Declan Doogue	Dublin
Saturday	29th	April	Walk in mixed woodland	Rosaleen Fitzgerald	Wicklow
Saturday	6th	May	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	13th	May	Geology	Prof. David Chew	Dublin
Tuesday	16th	May	The flora of Dublin City	Anangi	Dublin

				Sumalde, Ciarán Flynn, Declan Doogue	
Saturday	27th	May	Joint outing with Belfast Naturalists' Field Club	Mike King, Charles Shier & Tom Minter	Louth
Saturday	3rd	June	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Sunday	11th	June	Recording for the <i>Supplement to the Flora of the County Wicklow Arklow</i>	Declan Doogue	Wicklow
Saturday	17th	June	AGM and Members Day	DNFC	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	24th	June	Farm Visit	Anthony Mooney	Kildare
Wednesday	28th	June	Recording for the <i>Supplement to the Flora of the County Wicklow</i>	Clíona Ní Bhréartúin and Margaret Norton	Wicklow