



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

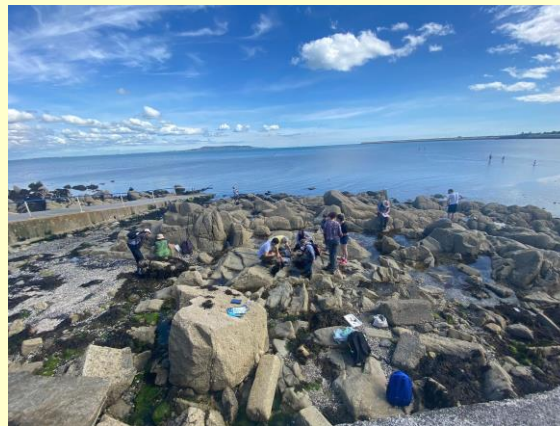
Club Newsletter

Autumn 2022

Dear Members,

We hope you're well and are enjoying every opportunity to explore our country.

A year ago the club resumed field meetings with an outing to Bull Island, so this seems a good time to bring you up to date with club activities and look forward to future events.



Seapoint, Snakelocks anemone, rock pools, Compass jellyfish. Photographs Charles Shier, Nessa D'Arcy

Field meetings. In the past year our events secretary coordinated a full and varied programme of visits to a number of different habitats including, most recently, outings to Island Fen, Co. Offaly, traditional hay meadows and permanent pastures in Kilpeddar, shores and sand dunes north of Portrane, the rock pools at Seapoint, river plants of the Boyne, habitats on cutaway bog at Mount Lucas Windfarm and hedgerows in Ballymun. Outings were led by club members and visiting experts, we acknowledge the time given and the insights shared during field meetings.

In August and September we look forward to meeting up and learning about coastal vegetation at Balbriggan and Rogerstown Estuary, butterflies on Bull Island and *Sphagnum* moss regeneration on Killyconny Bog, Co. Meath.



Portrane Shore, *Glaux maritima*, *Limonium humile*, *Spargularia media*. Photographs Pat Lenihan.

Our **WhatsApp Group** has gone from strength to strength. It was a valuable communication and information exchange forum for much of 2020 and 2021.

The **ZOOM** platform enabled DNFC & BNFC members and visiting speakers share their knowledge online. Topics ranged from Ireland's Rivers, The Ranelagh Osteoarchaeology Project, Moving the Dead Zoo, Marine Ecology, Images of Upland Plants and their locations, The Biogeography of Waterweeds, The Clare Island Survey to Rewilding our Uplands. We look forward to further presentations in the autumn/winter programmes.



Mount Lucas Windfarm, *Pulicaria dysenterica*, *Erigeron acer*. Photographs Pat Lenihan.

In June 2022 **BLOOM** returned to the Phoenix Park for the first time since 2019. DNFC participated in the event and members promoted the activities of the club and the Federation of Irish Field Clubs from our stand in the Conservation Zone. The public and visiting members were invited to view a display of publications, identification booklets, photographs and posters. Some printed materials, including an A5 page summary of the DNFC position paper '*The case against 'wildflower' seed mixtures*' were distributed.

The **DNFC Research and Publications Sub-committee** was established in 2019. It supports the furtherance and completion of current DNFC projects, including:

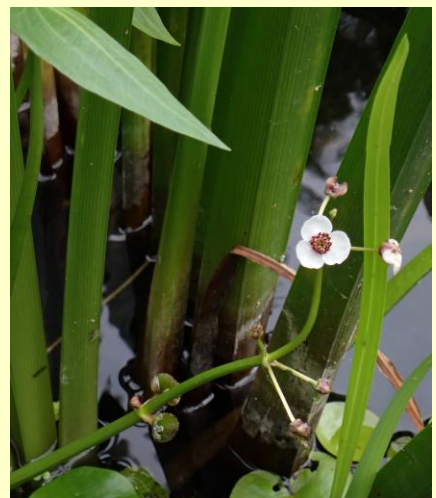
- The Flora of Howth;
- A Supplement to the Flora of Wicklow;
- A Checklist of the County Meath Flora;
- The Flora and Vegetation of the North Dublin Coast;
- A Social History of the DNFC.

The **DNFC Conservation Sub-committee** was established in January 2019.

The sub-committee has published its first position paper '*The case against 'wildflower' seed mixtures*'. A second position paper on '*Protecting the threatened flora of old walls*' is at draft stage.



Kilpeddar farm, Forester moth, Yellow Underwing moth. Photographs Niamh Lennon.



River Boyne, *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*. Photographs Pat Lenihan.



Corballis & Island Fen. *Carlina vulgaris*, *Ballota nigra*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Photographs Ciarán Flynn.