



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

October 2023 to December 2023

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All membership fees for 2024 are due on 1st January 2024

€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).

ADVANCE NOTICE OF JOINT DNFC/BNFC OUTING JUNE 2024

BNFC Long Field Trip June 2024

The BNFC club in consultation with the DNFC has planned a long field trip in 2024 and the North Antrim coast is the venue. It will be based in Ballycastle from Tuesday 11 th June – Friday 14 th June.

The programme will include:

- A day on Rathlin Island. Visits to sites of interest including geological and industrial heritage in Ballycastle.
- A morning of botany and zoology at Whitepark Bay followed by botany and geology on the Giant's Causeway. This will be by coach and we will also look at some of the historical sites in the area.

A more detailed itinerary will be available in the Spring programme.

D.N.F.C Workshops

The DNFC workshops are held in the National Botanic Gardens in the small room behind 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. 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. 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. Members are welcome to bring along any items they feel might be of interest.

Saturday 7th October 2023

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

Plant Identification Workshops

Stephen Alexander and Declan Doogue. Late-flowering weeds from north Dublin.

Please bring in any additional material from garden and arable habitats for discussion and display.

Pat Lenihan. Forked Spleenwort and Dorset heath

Asplenium septentrionale, Forked Spleenwort, occurs in one site in Ireland and was only discovered there in 1965. The plants are relatively small, and grow on low, isolated scarps on the north-east side of Errisbeg, Co. Galway. The history of the species here, and in Great Britain will be discussed.

The only colony of *Erica ciliaris*, Dorset Heath, in Ireland is in Roundstone Bog. It was first recorded in 1846. Its controversial and chequered history will be reviewed

Tom Minter and P.J. Walls. An introduction to Botanical Latin

Rosaleen Fitzgerald Exhibit. Rosa and Potamogeton hybrids. A number of significant hybrids have been discovered by Rosaleen in Vice- County H7, South Tipperary where she is BSBI Recorder. These include *Rosa x inelegans* (the very rare hybrid between *R. micrantha* and *R. arvensis*) and the recently-recognised *Potamogeton x suecicus*, the putative hybrid between *P. filiformis* and *P. pectinatus*.

Ursula King. An Introduction to Plant Genetics. Part 1.

In the course of three sessions included on this programme, Ursula will take us from basic plant genetics (today), through the significance of ploidy levels and an outline of recent molecular research, leading us to an understanding of the manner in which these explorations contribute to our understanding of “critical” taxa and the manner in which DNA evidence can be used to infer evolutionary history and drivers of change.

David Nash. Introducing *Pollinators and Pollination - Nature and Society* by Jeff Ollerton

Ciaran Flynn. Introducing *History of the British Flora* by H. Godwin

Saturday 14th October 2023

Fungi in Knocksink Wood, Enniskerry, Wicklow

Andrew has kindly agreed to give us another outing on Fungi, this time to Knocksink wood. This has proved to be a popular outing in the past and I'm sure will be equally so this time round. **(Risk level 1)**

Leader: Andrew Smith

Bring: Lunch and a hot drink, identification books, hand lenses, warm clothes.

Thursday 19th October 2023

Online Presentation

“Our *Opiliones*: reasons to record an under-appreciated taxonomic group”

Joshua Clarke is conservation officer (Northern Ireland) for Buglife, (The invertebrate Conservation Trust), the only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates. <https://www.buglife.org.uk>

They are actively working to save rare animals everything from bees to beetles, worms to woodlice and jumping spiders to jellyfish. Joshua will speak about Harvestmen (*Opiliones*) and his experience of recording Harvestmen, a completely harmless group of creatures with no venom glands unlike some spiders which are in the same order (*Arachnids*).

Saturday 28th October 2023

Autumn Colour at Farnleigh, Dublin

Farnleigh is a former Guinness family estate located on the north-western fringe of the Phoenix Park. It was purchased by the Irish Government in 1999 and is now managed by the Office of Public Works. The house is used to accommodate visiting dignitaries and guests of the nation. The parklands and gardens host a wide range of tree and shrub species. We will take a looped walk through the grounds and have a look at the collection of mature conifers and broadleaved trees. **(Risk Level 1)**.

Leader: Charles Shier

Saturday 4th November 2023

Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens,
Glasnevin, Dublin

Plant Identification Workshops

Sunniva Hanley. Marsh Clubmoss

Sunniva will review her recent discovery of a significant colony of *Lycopodiella inundata* in a new site in Co. Wicklow.

Ciaran Flynn. Recording the Flora of County Louth. Ciaran will update our group on the recording work he has been conducting in County Louth and will exhibit examples of recording by previous researchers in the area.

Declan Doogue. Examples of Irish regional, county and local floras.

Ursula King. An Introduction to plant genetics. Part 2.

Ursula will discuss the significance of polyploidy in relation to speciation and the species concept.

Reproductive Cycle of Ferns

Members might like to view the on-line presentation immediately below in advance of the *Dryopteris affinis* seminar planned for the afternoon.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83KnbZvAzEY&ab_channel=GardeningAustralia

Margaret Norton The *Dryopteris affinis* complex:

This session will involve the exchange of knowledge gained by members during the August DNFC *Dryopteris affinis* Workshop by Alison Evans and Roger Golding. Critically determined specimens will be reviewed during this ‘round-table’ discussion. Relevant resources include:

- *Some taxa within the **Dryopteris affinis** complex: A field guide* by Trewren, K., Pigott, A.C. and Evans, A.J (2014). Available at:

<https://ebps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SP13-E1.pdf>

- 2022 Irish Scaly Male ferns - a taxonomic study by Alison Evans. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53M0lrVj2B4>
- 2023 The scaly male ferns of the *Dryopteris affinis* complex and *D. filix-mas*. Handout at DNFC Workshop on *Dryopteris* by Alison Evans & Roger Golding.

Saturday 11th November 2023

**Bird outing, Turvey Allotments
on Donabate /Portrane peninsula**

We will walk (2km) to the hide which will be open, and observe birds on way down to and returning from the observatory.

Leader: Liam O'Brien

Thursday 16th November 2023

Online Presentation

Dr. P.J. Wall will give a talk on medicinal plants. He will tell us about the discovery and introduction of some early plants into medicine such as Quinine bark, Willow bark and Foxglove which led to the downfall of the Humoral Theory and the Doctrine of Signatures.

Saturday 25th November 2023

Powerscourt, Wicklow

We will look at The Geologic setting, Trees and Cryptogams of the Powerscourt Waterfall area, with a focus on epiphytic, lichenised fungi. We will also examine the regional geology, geomorphology and current biodiversity at Powerscourt Waterfall. We will consider the impacts to the epiphytic community by altered light levels due to periodic and extensive tree felling and replanting in the past. **(Risk level 1)**

Leaders: Howard Fox & Maria Cullen

Saturday 2nd December 2023

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

Charles Shier. Conifer Identification.

Charles will exhibit fresh and preserved specimens of the most commonly found self-sown and bird-sown conifers. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring along their own reference materials for comparison, or samples from the field for identification.

Melinda Lyons. The Genus *Frullania* in Ireland

Frullania species are distinctive leafy liverworts which grow on trees and rocks. We will examine the two most common species (*Frullania tamarisci* and *F. dilatata*) and compare these with less common but closely related species. Bring hand lenses (x20 if possible) and BBS Field Guides if you have them. Alternatively, Field Guide accounts are available online at <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/learning/species-finder/>

Declan Doogue. An exhibition of some books and papers by Robert Lloyd Praeger.

Ursula King. An Introduction to Plant Genetics. Part 3. DNA and what it tells us about molecular phylogenies and inferred evolutionary relationships.

David Nash. Eyebrights

An exhibit of many of the species and hybrids of *Euphrasia* (Eyebrights) encountered in recent years by David and other DNFC members. The material will be presented in the light of the recently published BSBI Handbook No. 18 entitled *Eyebrights (Euphrasia) of the U.K. and Ireland* by C. Metherell and F.J. Rumsey.

Saturday 9th December 2023

Bird outing, Bull Island

We would hope to see a variety of ducks (Wigeon, Shoveler, Teal, Pintail) and waders (Redshank, Greenshank, Godwits, Curlew, etc) as well as Brent Geese. **(Risk Level 1)**

Leader: Jim Fitzharris

Thursday 14th December 2023

Online Presentation

Butterflies, a miscellany

David Nash, co-author of *Ireland's Butterflies, A Review* (2012) will make some contextual observations on this subset of the Lepidoptera.

Tuesday 26th December 2023

Stephen's Day Walk

An opportunity to walk off all the excesses of Christmas and enjoy a bit of fresh air. (Risk level 1)

Leader: Tom Minitier

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader/Presenter	Location
Saturday	7th	October	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	14th	October	Fungi	Andrew Smyth	Wicklow
Thursday	19th	October	Harvestmen (Opiliones)	Joshua Clarke	Online Presentation
Saturday	28th	October	Autumn Colour Trees & Shrubs	Charles Shier	Farmleigh
Saturday	4th	November	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	11th	November	Birds	Liam O'Brien	Dublin
Thursday	16th	November	Medicinal plants	P.J. Walls	Online Presentation
Saturday	25th	November	Lichens etc	Maria Cullen & Howard Fox	Wicklow
Saturday	2nd	December	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	9th	December	Birds	Jim Fitzharris	Dublin
Thursday	14th	December	Butterflies	David Nash	Online Presentation
Tuesday	26th	December	Stephen's Day Walk	Tom Minter	Dublin