



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
PROGRAMME of EVENTS
January to March 2024

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

Please note change in subscription rate

€35.00 for individuals, and €40.00 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).

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader/Presenter	Location
Saturday	13th	January	Birds	Pat Lenihan	Kilcoole, Wicklow
Thursday	18th	January	<i>"Garden plants and their wild Irish cousins"</i>	Declan Doogue	Online presentation
Saturday	27th	January	Winter Walk in the Brockaghs	Sunniva Hanley	Wicklow
Saturday	3rd	February	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Thursday	15th	February	<i>"Botanical illustrations of Irish Postage Stamps"</i>	Pat Lenihan	Online Presentation
Saturday	24th	February	Bryophytes	Joanne Denyer	Wicklow
Saturday	2nd	March	Praeger Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	9th	March	Rockpooling	Laila Higgins	Portmarnock Dublin
Thursday	14th	March	<i>"interactions and relationships in nature - focusing on parasitic wasps"</i> .	Stuart Dunlop	Online presentation
Saturday	30th	March	Birds	Brian Gormley	Poolbeg, Dublin

Joint BNFC/DNFC Outing to the North Antrim Coast in June 2024

The Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, in consultation with the DNFC, has organised a long field meeting on the North Antrim Coast from Tuesday 11th until Friday 14th June 2024. An information note about the outing and a booking form have been circulated to members along with this programme. If you are interested in attending this outing, please note that the booking form and the appropriate fee must be returned to Charles Shier, Honorary Secretary, before **29th February 2024**.

Saturday 13th January 2024

Bird outing-Kilcoole

The outing will consist of a walk along the seashore leaving from Kilcoole railway station and taking in the "Murrough". Migration is a feature this time of year which can throw up its own surprises. Regularly seen are waders, ducks, geese, swans, and seabirds

Leader: Pat Lenihan

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

Directions

By car: Take the N11/M50 and head south towards Wexford. About one mile south of the Glen of the Downs take slip road to Kilcoole. Head into Kilcoole and at the traffic lights turn onto the Sea Road which leads to the railway station. At the level crossing turn left into the car park.

By Bus: Dublin Bus 84a runs from Blackrock to Newcastle. The journey takes a little over an hour and it takes about 20 mins to walk from the bus stop in the village to the car park. (**Risk level: 2**)

Thursday 18th January 2024

Online Presentation

Declan Doogue will give a presentation entitled '*Garden plants and their wild Irish cousins*'

Saturday 27th January 2024

Winter Woodland walk in the Brockaghs

This is a mixed woodland with many deciduous and coniferous species, native and non-native.

We will walk from the car park along the forest trails. If time and weather permits we will explore some open areas above Glendalough.

Leader: Sunniva Hanley

.Bring: Warm clothing, Strong footwear, raingear, Lunch and a hot drink, field lens, ID books

Directions

Take the N11 south to Kilmacanogue. Keep left and exit at junction 8 Kilmacanogue. Follow signs for Roundwood, Laragh and Glendalough. Drive on the R755 through Roundwood to Laragh.

At Laragh turn right towards Glendalough, drive for 400 m (pass shop and petrol pump on right), take next right turn to St Kevin's Church. Drive 150 m and small car park will be on your right hand side.

Saturday 3rd February

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

Plant Identification Workshops

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 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.

Morning session

The flora of southwestern China: A brief sketch of alpine species and their habitats.

Zhuzan Xirao

As one of the global biodiversity hotspots, the mountainous areas of southwestern China have a very complex geographical environment and unique biological community structure. This magical region will be introduced through featuring some examples of plants that thrive in different high-altitude ecosystems.

Our very welcome new member, Zhuzan, is a TCD international student as well as a big enthusiast of alpine flora, with a keen interest in adaptive evolution of seed plants and ethnobotany. During his undergraduate studies, he was interested in the origins and the domestication process of the genus *Chrysanthemum* in east Asia.

Euphrasia

David Nash

An exhibit of identified Eyebright (*Euphrasia*) material held over from the December 2023 session. David will display and comment on material collected by himself and others. Members should bring copies of the BSBI Handbook No. 18. Eyebrights (*Euphrasia*) of the UK and Ireland by C. Metherell and F.J. Rumsey.

The Genetics of Speciation

Ursula King

Ursula has been guiding us through the minutiae of genetics and has led us to a developing understanding of why phenotypic diversity is underpinned by much more complex processes. These in turn have led to and to some extent explain the complex nature of the taxonomy of so-called “critical” species groups, such as *Euphrasia*, *Rubus* and *Taraxacum*.

Afternoon Session

Alien Grasses

Alexis FitzGerald will show us some alien grasses and discuss their provenance and answer questions on same.

Publications of H.C. Hart, author of *The Flora of Howth (1887)*.

Declan Doogue

Book reviews and introductions

Members are invited to bring to our attention book and papers which they consider to be of interest.

Thursday 15th February 2024

Online Presentation

Pat Lenihan will give a presentation on '*Botanical illustrations of Irish Postage Stamps*'
The stamps and plants illustrated will be discussed as well as profiles of the botanical artists concerned.

Saturday 24th February 2024

Bryophytes, Liffey Head Bog

This is a joint meeting of the DNFC and Irish Bryophyte Group. We will explore the blanket bog and bog pools in and around Liffey Head Bog. The focus will be on identifying Sphagnum (bog mosses), but we will look at other blanket bog bryophytes that we encounter. Beginners very welcome.

Leader: Dr. Joanne Denyer

Bring: Wear wellies and very warm clothes as it will be cold at this time of year.
This will be a half day meeting

Saturday 2nd March 2024

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

Morning Session

Discovering the flora of West Mayo.

Sinead Garry.

Sinead has been working on the flora of Mayo with the present BSBI county recorder and has assembled a number of images of interesting species seldom seen in the east of Ireland.

Patrick Browns's Fasciculus

Pat Lenihan

This presentation will discuss the life and works of the Irish botanist and physician Dr. Patrick Browne (1720-1796). He is best known as the author of *The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica*; and *Fasiculus Plantarum Hiberniae*, an outline of the flora of the West of Ireland.

An introduction to the use of GPS digital mapping devices.

Sunniva Hanley

This brief presentation will look at the main features of mapping apps and consider their costs, possible uses and limitations in the field. This will be followed by a discussion with contributions from various members.

Afternoon Session

Aspects of the Flora of Howth.

Declan Doogue

Book Introductions and reviews.

Members.

Saturday 9th March 2024

Rock pooling trip to 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..

Leader: Laila Higgins

Bring: Wellies recommended, and a towel. A bucket or Tupperware are great to bring, and a small net can be useful if you have it but not necessary. A change of clothes is recommended. Also sunscreen and sunglasses as well as wind/raingear and dress warm - it is very likely to be cold.

Thursday 14th March 2024

Online Presentation

Stuart Dunlop will give a presentation entitled:-

“ interactions and relationships in nature - focusing on parasitic wasps”.

Stuart Dunlop runs his own website called Donegal Wildlife which comprises two components, :

- A topical set of images arranged by date with commentary
- A set of 'Species profiles' that build into a database of the species he encounters in his travels.

His interests are wide including Insects, Bryophytes, Fungi, Higher plants. He also runs a leafminer recording scheme. See his website for more details.

<https://donegal-wildlife.blogspot.com/>

Saturday 30th March 2024

Birds at 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..