



## THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

### PROGRAMME of EVENTS

October to December 2024

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	5th	Oct.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	19th	Oct.	Woodland Walk in Belmont Demesne	Sunniva Hanley	Belmont, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	26th	Oct.	Autumn Colour: Tree Walk in St. Anne's Park	Charles Shier	St. Anne's Park, Dublin
Tuesday	29th	Oct.	<i>'The Orchids of North Bull Island'</i>	Philip Grant	Online Presentation
Saturday	2nd	Nov.	Members' Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Tuesday	19th	Nov.	<i>'The Geology &amp; Fossils of Co. Wexford'</i>	Patrick Wyse Jackson	Online Presentation
Saturday	23rd	Nov.	Bird Watching	Jim Fitzharris	North Bull Island, Dublin
Saturday	30th	Nov.	Museum Building & Geology Museum	Patrick Wyse Jackson	Trinity College Dublin
Saturday	7th	Dec.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens
Tuesday	17th	Dec.	<i>'Semi-Natural Grasslands in Ireland'</i>	Maria Long	Online Presentation
Thursday	26th	Dec.	St. Stephen's Day Walk	Tom Mniter	South Bull Wall, Dublin

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](mailto:Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net)

**DNFC Plant Identification Workshops** The DNFC workshops are held in the National Botanic Gardens in the small room at the near end of the curvilinear range, on the first Saturday of the month – The 'Praeger Centre'. The Field Club is very fortunate in having access to this facility through the active support and permission of the Director, Matthew Jebb and staff members. Some members meet for coffee beforehand in the tea rooms. Please bring your own lunch.

### **Saturday 5th October 2024**

### **Plant Identification Workshop Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens**

#### **Morning Session**

#### **Books on the Irish Landscape - Charles Shier**

A review of books that describe the formative elements of the Irish landscape and how man has impacted upon it, including early structures, the great houses, gardens and demesnes, and how it has been recorded.

#### **Hypericum - Margaret Norton**

The genus *Hypericum* includes many native species and a number of garden escapes. In addition, recent studies have disclosed the presence of possible hybridity between two native species - *Hypericum perforatum* and *H. maculatum*.

#### **Some Interesting plants from Co. Louth - Ciarán Flynn**

In recent years Ciarán, the joint BSBI Vice-county recorder for Co. Louth, has been recording the flora of the county and in particular the flora and habitats of the Cooley Peninsula.

#### **Brachypodium grasses – David Nash**

Three species of this genus are known in Ireland – *B. sylvaticum*, *B. pinnatum* and *B. rupestre*. The latter has been recently confirmed from County Dublin. Please bring along specimens especially "*B. pinnatum*".

#### **Afternoon Session**

#### **Roses - Declan Doogue**

Recent taxonomic revisions and clarifications have required closer consideration of the species-complex formerly known as *Rosa canina*. We will also explore some aspects of the Downy and Sweet-briar roses. Members may wish to bring in *Rosa* material collected in September/October for discussion and consideration.

**Rosa literature.** Many taxonomic reviews of the genus *Rosa* have taken place, producing, *inter alia*, a wide body of specialised and illustrated literature. Some published examples from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century will be exhibited

**Saturday 19th October 2024**

**Belmont Demesne, Co. Wicklow  
Risk Level 1/2**

Belmont House (now in ruins) was built in the late 18th century and the estate reverted to the Brabazon family in 1841. The estate and farm are managed by the family. We will walk on a looped trail through the woodland area and observe autumn plants and foliage. If time and weather permits, we may follow the track towards the base of the Little Sugarloaf and explore the heathland there.

**Leader:** Sunniva Hanley

**Meet:** at the Demesne Car Park; (or 10.30 for tea/coffee at the adjacent bike cabin and coffee hut ). There is a €3 parking charge for cars - card or coins accepted.

**Bring:** Field lens, ID books, lunch, warm drink, waterproof clothes and sturdy boots are advised.

**Directions:** By Car – Take the N11 south and exit at Junction 7 (Bray South/Greystones North). At the roundabout turn right onto the R768 for Greystones and follow the signs for Kilruddery House. Go past the entrance to Kilruddery (on your right) and at the next roundabout turn right onto the R761 for Greystones. Continue uphill past Bray Golf Club and at the crest you will see a bus shelter on your right. After the shelter turn right into Templecarrig Lower Road (L1028) and continue for 600 m. Belmont Demesne is on your right.  
Demesne Eircode A63 FX34. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/qFwA7Qd7k99JqoVp7>

By Public Transport – Take the DART to Bray then take the 84 bus (direction Newcastle) to stop 4211 on the Rathdown Road, or the 184 bus (direction Newtownmountkennedy) to the same stop. Then walk down the L1028 Templecarrig Lower Road to the entrance and along the estate road to the car park and bike cabin, about 1 km.

**Saturday 26th October 2024**

**Autumnal Colour Tree Walk in St. Anne's  
Park, Dublin - Risk Level 1**

St. Anne's, covering 240 acres, is the second largest park in Dublin. It was formerly the home of Sir Arthur Edward Guinness who laid out the gardens and completed the main structural planting in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Millennium Arboretum was added a century later. We will complete a looped walk examining some of the main coniferous and broadleaved trees in the central area of the park.

**Leader:** Charles Shier

**Bring:** Identification books and hand lens, lunch, walking boots and raingear if the weather forecast suggests rain.

**Directions:** From the city centre, take the Clontarf Road (R807) north along the coast. Turn left into Mount Prospect Avenue and the entrance to the car park at the Red Stables is the first on the right. If the car park is full, additional parking is usually available along Mount Prospect Avenue.

**Tuesday 29th Oct. 2024**

**Online Presentation 7.30 p.m.**

***'The Orchids of North Bull Island'* - Philip Grant**

Philip will give an overview of the orchid species that occur on Bull Island with a particular focus on the complex population dynamics of the island's Marsh orchids (*Dactylorhiza* species).

**Saturday 2nd November 2024**

**Members' Day  
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin**

All DNFC members are encouraged to bring along and put on display any items they think may be of interest to others: projects, specimens, photographs, books, maps, etc.

The agenda/programme for Members' Day will be sent to DNFC members closer to the event.

**Tuesday 19th November 2024**

**Online Presentation 7.30 p.m.**

***'The Geology and Fossils of County Wexford'* - Patrick Wyse Jackson**

Patrick will discuss the varied geology of the southeast county of Ireland; and then he will illustrate the range and outline the importance of the wonderful fossils found in rocks dating from between the Ediacaran and Mississippian geological periods.

**Saturday 23rd November 2024**

**Bird Outing – Bull Island  
Risk Level 1**

On the outing, 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.

**Leader:** Jim Fitzharris

**Bring:** Binoculars or viewing scopes, warm clothes and wear strong footwear; packed lunch optional.

Please note the meeting time is geared to the time of the high tide in the late afternoon.

## **Saturday 30th November 2024**

## **Museum Building & Geology Museum Trinity College Dublin - Risk Level 2**

The outing will examine the beautiful Museum Building at Trinity College, in which a wide range of stone types was used in its construction, and then the group will visit the Geological Museum located a 15 minute walk away where some geological treasures can be viewed.

**Leader:** Patrick Wyse Jackson

## **Saturday 7th December 2024**

## **Plant Identification Workshop Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens**

### **Morning Session**

#### **Witches' Broom in Conifers – Charles Shier**

A presentation that will examine the causes and occurrence of Witches' Broom in conifers and its importance to the horticultural trade.

#### **Identifying Lianas from the East Asian region - Zhuzan Xirao**

Over the past few centuries, various species of lianas or twining vines originating from East Asia have been introduced to Ireland as ornamental plants, including Wisteria, Clematis and Honeysuckle. This presentation will explore the distinguishing characteristics of some of these groups.

#### **Book Review – Rosaleen Fitzgerald**

“*The Invention of Nature: The adventures of Alexander Von Humbold - the lost hero of science*” by Andrea Wulf, will be introduced and reviewed by Rosaleen.

#### **Juncus - Declan Doogue**

Many of our native rushes (*Juncus*) display significant ecological preferences and strong habitat/community allegiance. Preserved examples of most of the Irish species will be exhibited.

### **Afternoon Session**

#### ***Rubus fruticosus* agg. The Brambles. - DNFC members**

Various DNFC members have made significant gatherings of *Rubus* material from different parts of Ireland. We will begin to examine extracts from this body of herbarium specimens, mainly determined by the late David Allen, in order to assign the preserved specimens to their respective taxonomic groups (“Series”).

We will also be introduced to part of the large body of taxonomic literature relating to the *Rubus fruticosus* complex. Additionally, participants are referred to the website prepared by John Norton (entitled ‘Brambles of the British Isles’, by John Norton), which has excellent photographs of many of the *Rubus* species from Hampshire, where David Allen studied the *Rubus* flora for many years, as well as images from other areas.

**Tuesday 17th December 2024**

**Online Presentation - 7.30 p.m.**

**'Semi-natural Grasslands in Ireland' - Maria Long**

Maria is an ecologist with the National Parks and Wildlife Service who specialises in grassland habitats. Her presentation will cover some of the semi-natural grasslands that can be found in Ireland.

**Thursday 26th December 2024**

**St. Stephen's Day Walk on South Bull Wall  
Risk Level 1**

An opportunity to walk off some of the excesses of Christmas and enjoy a bit of fresh air on the South Bull Wall.

**Leader:** Tom Miniter

**Bring:** Warm clothes, strong footwear, food and a hot drink.

**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.