



## THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

### PROGRAMME of EVENTS

October to December 2025

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	4th	Oct.	BSBI Autumn Conference	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	11th	Oct.	Woodland Walk	Sunniva Hanley	Glen of the Downs Co. Wicklow
Thursday	23rd	Oct.	<i>'Vascular Species named in the Flora Protection Order'</i>	Pat Lenihan	Online Presentation
Saturday	25th	Oct.	Members' Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	1st	Nov.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	8th	Nov.	Autumn Colour: Tree Walk In the Phoenix Park	Charles Shier	Phoenix Park, Dublin
Tuesday	18th	Nov.	<i>'The Native Woodland Trust'</i>	Jim Lawlor	Online Presentation
Saturday	22nd	Nov.	Bird Outing to Rogerstown Estuary	Jim Fitzharris	Turvey Nature Res., Co. Dublin
Saturday	6th	Dec.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens
Saturday	13th	Dec.	Coastal Outing	Laila Higgins	Portmarnock, Co. Dublin
Thursday	18th	Dec.	<i>'The Irish Naturalists' Journal 1925-2025'</i>	Nigel Monaghan	Online Presentation
Friday	26th	Dec.	St. Stephen's Day Walk	Tom Mniter	University College Dublin

Dear Members

There are three online Zoom presentations included in this programme and members can connect to them using desktop or laptop computers, tablets or smartphones. An email link to the presentation will be sent to members during the week beforehand. 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 the 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 - the 'Praeger Centre' - on the first Saturday of the month. 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.

**Note:** There will be no plant identification workshop on Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> October, as the BSBI Autumn Meeting is being held at the National Botanic Gardens.

### **Saturday 4th October 2025**

### **BSBI Autumn Meeting, NBG**

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) will hold its Irish Autumn Meeting and AGM 2025 at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, commencing at 10.00 AM. The topics discussed will include: the current botanical research from the Herbarium; a workshop on *Erigeron* species; turlough ecology; and the development of the IVC habitat classification system. A full programme for the day will be published on the BSBI webpage nearer the time.

All members of the Field Club are welcome to attend the conference, which is free, but booking is essential at: <https://bsbi.org/irish-autumn-meeting-agm>

### **Saturday 11th October 2025**

### **Glen of the Downs, Co. Wicklow Risk Level 2**

A woodland walk in the Glen of the Downs SAC, an old sessile oak wood. We will follow a looped trail on the west side of the Glen of the Downs and examine the woodland flora. If time permits, we will visit a section on the east side of the Glen after lunch. Uneven tracks and some ascents and descents. Strong footwear or hiking boots are essential.

**Leader:** Sunniva Hanley

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

**Directions:** From the M50, drive south on the N11, past Kilmacanogue, and exit at Junction 9, signposted Glenview Hotel. Drive over the N11 to the hotel entrance and car park. { GPS: 53.14242, -6.12699 }

### **Thursday 23rd October 2025**

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

#### **‘The Flora (Protection) Order 2022’**

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**Pat Lenihan**

Pat will describe some of the vascular plant species listed in the Flora (Protection) Order 2022, giving us an overview of what the plants look like and describing where they may be found. This new list of plants protected in Ireland supersedes previous orders made in 1980, 1987, 1999 and 2015.

### **Saturday 25th October 2025**

**Members’ Day  
National Botanic Gardens**

This year our Members’ Day will include a celebration of the centenary of the *Irish Naturalists’ Journal*, which was first published in September 1925. All DNFC members are encouraged to bring along and put on display any items that relate to the INJ, or that they think may be of interest to others, such as projects, specimens, photographs, books, maps, etc.

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

### **Saturday 1st November 2025**

**Plant Identification Workshop  
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin**

#### **Identification of species in the genus *Hypericum***

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**Margaret Norton**

#### **Bryophytes of Slieve Gullion, Co. Armagh, history and vegetation - Ciaran Flynn**

Following on from the Member's Day talk, we will look at the bryophytes of Slieve Gullion in greater detail. Historical recording, vegetation, and geological influences will all be discussed.

#### **Book Review and discussion - Charles Shier**

**"The Tree Hunters: How the Cult of the Arboretum Transformed Our Landscape"** by **Thomas Pakenham**, the historian, author and custodian of Tullyally Castle. His book discusses the start of a trend for country gentlemen to collect specimen trees for their demesnes; introduces us to some of the characters who travelled to far-flung lands to search for new species; describes the rise of a number of famous nurseries; and provides an overview of the development of some parks and arboreta still visited today.

#### ***Rubus* - Alexis Fitzgerald**

Revision of the bramble species recorded during the summer visits by the ***Rubus*** expert David Earl, including a review of photographic materials collected during the visits. Members should bring their copies of **"Brambles of Scotland"** by Angus Hannah, BSBI Handbook No.25 as well as the earlier work **"Brambles of the British Isles"** by E. S. Edees and A. Newton.

**Saturday 8th November 2025**

**Autumn Colour – Tree Walk in Phoenix Park  
Risk Level 1**

Set in the northern sector of the Phoenix Park, **Ashtown Castle** has had a varied history. It has served as a residence for the keepers of the deer; the Under Secretary for Ireland; the first US ambassador and the Papal Nuncio. We will visit the adjacent walled garden and the small arboretum beside the castle and complete a looped walk to examine some of the main coniferous and broadleaved trees in the northern area of the park. The walk should take about 1.5 to 2 hours.

**Leader:** Charles Shier

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

**Directions:** From the city centre, take the Chapelizod Road (R109) and turn right into Chesterfield Avenue. Continue up as far as the Phoenix Monument roundabout and veer right onto Nunciature Road, which leads to the Car Park at the Visitor Centre. { GPS: 53.36479, -6.33200 }

**Tuesday 18th November 2025**

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

***'The Native Woodland Trust'* - Jim Lawlor, Chairperson of Trust**

Very little of our ancient woodland still remains in Ireland today. The Native Woodland Trust was formed to halt the destruction of Ireland's woodlands and to help native woodland to regenerate and expand naturally. Jim will tell us about the formation of the Trust and describe its objectives; discuss its record of acquiring, expanding and managing woodlands; and outline the Trust's plans for the future.

**Saturday 22nd November 2025**

**Bird Outing – Rogerstown Estuary  
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. The walk to the estuary from the car park goes through the Turvey Nature Reserve with woodland, hedgerows and ponds, with opportunities to see different birds.

**Leader:** Jim Fitzharris

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

**Directions:** From the M50, take the M1 north and exit at Junction 4. On the exit ramp, keep to either of the two right lanes to take the R132 north to Skerries/ Rush. Cross over the M1 and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout continue straight ahead onto the R132 for Skerries. At the next small roundabout (1.3 kms), take the second exit and stay on the R132. At the next small roundabout (300 metres), turn right onto Turvey Avenue (signposted L2136 for Donabate). After one

kilometre, the Car Park entrance will be on the left-hand side. There is ample parking. { GPS: 53.49294, -6.18139 }

### **Saturday 6th December 2025**

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

#### **The plants and vegetation of Wales, and its relation to the Irish flora - Ciaran Flynn**

As the nearest landmass to many parts of eastern Ireland, Wales shares a broadly similar flora with Ireland. Some differences are apparent, however. We will discuss these differences, describe some of Wales' outstanding botanical sites, and consider the complex issue of postglacial colonisation.

**Getting to the specifically predictable ends of botanical nomenclature** – a short guide for the perplexed - **Tom Minitier**

**Botanical Nomenclature:** Some Examples. - **Declan Doogue**

#### **Bramble Identification - Alexis Fitzgerald**

We will continue our explorations of the various bramble series, with Sections **Discolores**, **Sprenghianii** and **Vestiti** being considered in this session. Mostly common/widespread species will be discussed. Please bring along any expertly identified specimens of the above sections to augment our material for display. Members should bring their copies of "**Brambles of Scotland**" by Angus Hannah, BSBI Handbook No.25 as well as the earlier work "**Brambles of the British Isles**" by E. S. Edees and A. Newton

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

### **Coastal Outing, Portmarnock Risk Level 1**

Laila will lead an early winter coastal outing at Portmarnock, where we will explore the intertidal zone.

**Leader:** Laila Higgins

**Bring:** Wear warm clothes, suitable footwear (wellies); food and a hot drink are optional.

**Directions:** From the city centre take the R105 (Amien St.) to Fairview and then the R107 (Malahide Road). Pass the Hilton Hotel on your left, and after 500 m turn right onto the R123 (Balgriffin Road). Turn left at the T-junction at the end onto the R106 (Coast Road) and continue on this until you reach Portmarnock.

### **Thursday 18th December 2025**

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

**'The Irish Naturalists' Journal 1925-2025: a century of natural history publishing in Ireland'** - **Nigel Monaghan, Editor INJ**

The *Irish Naturalists' Journal* was established in 1925 as a successor to *The Irish Naturalist* (1892-1924). Throughout its history the INJ has been open to amateur enthusiasts and professionally trained scientists. It has been run for a century on a voluntary basis with members drawn from various sectors of the Irish natural history community. Over 8,800 individual contributions have published within the INJ covers and amongst the 15 occasional publications to date. It was founded by Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society (BHNPS), Belfast Naturalists' Field Club (BNFC) and Dublin Naturalists' Field Club (DNFC) and was run by a committee representing these and other field clubs in the early years. It is now run by a company, but while the legalities may have changed, the spirit of the committee system remains, in particular the importance of operating on an all-island basis and the encouragement of amateur contributors.

**Friday 26th December 2025**

**St. Stephen's Day Walk at UCD, Belfield  
Risk Level 1**

An opportunity to walk off some of the excesses of Christmas and enjoy a bit of fresh air on the Belfield Campus at University College Dublin.

**Leader:** Tom Miniter

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

**Directions:** From the city centre take the R138 for Donnybrook/Stillorgan. After passing the RTE Mast and Nutley Lane, veer left and take the ramp up to the flyover into UCD. After crossing the flyover you will have to go left. There is usually parking at the Old Running Track off the roundabout or you could double back and park at N2 beside O'Reilly Hall.

Note: Permit Parking only applies during term time.