



# THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

## PROGRAMME of EVENTS

### January to March 2026

#### **\*MEMBERSHIP FEES\***

**All membership fees for 2026 are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

€35.00 for individuals; €40.00 for a family; and €5 for Students.

To arrange payment contact: Fridolin Kerr, 31 Cherrywood Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.  
([Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net](mailto:Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net))

You may pay via [www.dnfc.net](http://www.dnfc.net), by PayPal (including credit card).

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	17th	Jan.	Bird Watching	Pat Lenihan	Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
Tuesday	20th	Jan.	<i>'The Development of Rathmines'</i>	Séamas O Maitiú	Online Presentation
Saturday	7th	Feb.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Thursday	19th	Feb.	<i>'Iberian Invertebrates'</i>	Nessa Darcy	Online Presentation
Saturday	21st	Feb.	Conifer Walk	Charles Shier	Kilmacurragh, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	7th	Mar.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	14th	Mar.	Coastal Outing	Laila Higgins	Portmarnock, Co. Dublin
Thursday	19th	Mar.	<i>'Mapping Ireland's Hidden Peatlands'</i>	John Connolly	Online Presentation
Saturday	21st	Mar.	Mosses, Liverworts and Early Spring Flora	Jo Denyer & Melinda Lyons	Glenasmole, Co. Wicklow

#### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

#### **Joint outing with the BNFC to the Lough Ree Region: 15th – 18th June 2026**

A 4-day joint outing with the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club to the Lough Ree Region (Longford and Roscommon) is being organised at present. Further details about the outing and booking forms will be sent to Field Club members at the end of January.

## **DNFC Plant Identification Workshops**

The DNFC workshop sessions are held in the National Botanic Gardens, usually on the first Saturday of each 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.

Please note that there will be no workshop on the first Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup>) of January.

### **Saturday 17th January 2026**

#### **Bird Watching – Kilcoole Risk Level 1**

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. The outing will finish at approximately 14.00 h.

### **Tuesday 20th January 2026**

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

***‘Creating a Suburb: the development of Rathmines in the 19th and 20th centuries’ -  
Dr. Séamas Ó Maitiú.***

The presentation is based on the speaker's Irish Historic Towns' Atlas of Rathmines and it examines the growth of this prestigious suburb and the huge influence that the natural environment, especially water, had on its development.

### **Saturday 7th February 2026**

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

**The identification of *Hypericum* species in Ireland - Margaret Norton**

**Wild Roses of Great Britain and Ireland: A Review - Declan Doogue.**

The most recent BSBI handbook No. 26, by Roger Maskew and Gareth Knass, has elucidated a number of taxonomic and nomenclatural issues (and unearthed a number of others) which will have immediate relevance to plant recording in Ireland. A preliminary attempt will be made to reconcile current and traditional understandings of species and hybrid delimitations with the new scheme of classification. Please bring your copies of this edition, the earlier BSBI

Handbook by Gorton Graham and Tony Primavesi and/or where possible earlier works by Wolley-Dod and others. A small exhibit of early Rose books will accompany the presentation.

### **The Flora and Vegetation of Wales - 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's outstanding botanical sites, and consider the complex issue of postglacial colonisation.

**Thursday 19th February 2026**

**Online Presentation 7.30 p.m.**

### **'Iberian Invertebrates' - Nessa Darcy**

Nessa will present and discuss some of the insects and other invertebrates that she has come across during her travels in the Iberian Peninsula.

**Saturday 21st February 2026**

**Conifer Walk at Kilmacurragh, Co. Wicklow  
Risk Level 2**

As the broadleaved trees are rather bare at this time of the year, we will take a looped walk around the arboretum at the National Botanic Gardens' Kilmacurragh site and have a look at some of the main types of coniferous plants present.

**Leader:** Charles Shier

**Bring:** Tree books and hand lens, walking boots and raingear if the weather forecast suggests rain. Bring lunch – or you can adjourn to the café.

**Saturday 7th March 2026**

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

### **Conifers - Charles Shier**

#### **a) Changes to the genus *Cupressus*: Separating the Old World from the New**

Charles will discuss the changes that have taken place within the genus *Cupressus* to separate the cypress species of the Old World (Europe, N. Africa and Asia) from those in the New World (North and Central America), which are now assigned to the genus *Hesperocyparis*;

#### **b) Conifer identification session**

Members are invited to bring in samples from conifers for identification – please bring both foliage and cones if possible;

### c) Conifer Walk in the Botanic Gardens

We will take a walk through the conifer arboretum at the NBG and have a look at some of the main genera that have been planted there over the past 230 years.

### **Bramble Identification – Alexis Fitzgerald**

We will continue our explorations of the various bramble series, with Sections **Discolores**, **Sprengeliani** 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 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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

Laila will lead an early Spring 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.

### **Thursday 19th March 2026**

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

### **‘Mapping Ireland’s Hidden Peatlands: A Geographical Perspective’ - Dr. John Connolly**

John will discuss the RePEAT project, funded by DAFM and the EPA, which seeks to use a combination of 200-year old maps and cutting edge technology to map the extent of peatlands in Ireland and assess the current land cover of those peatlands. The project combines expertise from the Dept. of Geography in the University of Galway and the Dept. of Geography and the Dept. of History in Trinity College Dublin.

### **Saturday 21st March 2026**

### **Mosses, Liverworts & Early Spring Flora Glenasmole, Co. Wicklow - Risk Level 3**

This is a joint outing with the British Bryological Society to examine the bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) of woodland at Glenasmole, along with early flowering woodland plants. We hope to visit tufa-forming springs and seepages on the hillsides surrounding the reservoirs and to examine other woodland and wetland habitats. A moderate level of fitness / agility will be needed as the ground is steep and wet on much of the hillside and there is no formal footpath. Sturdy waterproof footwear is essential and care must be taken near open water.

**Leaders:** Melinda Lyons & Joanne Denyer

**Bring:** Waterproof hiking boots or sturdy wellies with good grips; hand lens; BBS Field Guide (if you have one); lunch.

**Important:** Access to and egress from the area we are visiting is controlled by the management of the reservoirs. If you intend coming on this outing, **please contact the leader in advance to book a place.** Meeting time and location may change closer to the date of the outing. Parking is limited - please carpool if possible.