



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

October to December 2026

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	3rd	Oct.	BSBI Autumn Meeting & AGM	Various	Fermanagh House Enniskillen
Friday	9th	Oct.	Plant Identification W/shop - National Herbarium	Dr. Darren Reidy	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	24th	Oct.	Autumn Colour Tree Walk at Killruddery Gardens	Charles Shier	Killruddery, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	7th	Nov.	Members' Day	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Thursday	19th	Nov.	<i>'The Breeding Waders EIP Project'</i>	Owen Murphy	Online Presentation
Saturday	21st	Nov.	Forest Walk in a Wicklow Glen	Rosaleen Fitzgerald	The Devil's Glen, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	5th	Dec.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens
Saturday	12th	Dec.	Bird Outing to Rogerstown Estuary	Jim Fitzharris	Turvey Nature Res., Co. Dublin
Thursday	17th	Dec.	<i>'Wild & Garden Poisonous Plants'</i>	Pat Lenihan	Online Presentation
Saturday	26th	Dec.	St. Stephen's Day Walk	Tom Miniter	Portmarnock Estuary, Dublin

Dear Members,

There are two 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 each presentation will be sent to members during the week beforehand. There are two ways to join a DNFC presentation 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 one of the presentations, then please send your email address to the Membership Secretary, Fridolin Kerr, at: Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net

DNFC Plant Identification Workshops

The DNFC workshops are held in the National Botanic Gardens in the small room at the rear of the curvilinear range - the 'Praeger Centre' – usually on the first Saturday of the month (but only one this quarter!). The Field Club is very fortunate in having access to this facility through the active support and permission of the Director, Dr. Noeleen Smyth, and staff members. Some members meet for coffee beforehand in the tea rooms. Please bring a lunch, the recommended texts and lenses with measuring graticules.

Note: There will be no plant identification workshops on Sat. 3rd October, as the BSBI Autumn Meeting and AGM will be held on that day, or on 7th November (Members' Day)

Saturday 3rd October 2026

BSBI Autumn Meeting & AGM Fermanagh House, Enniskillen

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) will hold its Irish Autumn Meeting and AGM 2026 at Fermanagh House, Enniskillen, BT74 7HR, commencing at 10.00 AM. The meeting will focus on recording, with a number of workshops where participants can improve their plant identification skills; you can hear about the unique flora of Co. Fermanagh; and there will also be a bookstall from Acanthophyllum Books, who specialise in out-of-print, used, and rare natural history books.

All members of the Field Club are welcome to attend the conference, which is free, but booking is essential – see: <https://bsbi.org/take-part/events/calendar/irish-autumn-meeting-agm-2026>

Friday 9th October 2026

Plant Identification Workshop National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Meet: at the Herbarium building.

A Natural History: 100 years of the Irish Naturalists' Journal told through the collections at the National Botanic Gardens. – Dr. Darren Reidy

This themed tour will explore stories from the INJ using specimens from the Herbarium. It will also involve a visit to the native species nursery and living collections. This is a rare opportunity to visit parts of the National Botanic Gardens not normally accessible to the general public.

Digitisation of the National Herbarium – Dr. Darren Reidy

The digitisation project of the Herbarium has involved the creation of high-resolution images of all specimens and the extraction of data from the collections. The process of accessing this data will be explained.

Saturday 24th October 2026**Autumn Colour – Tree Walk in Killruddery Gardens
Risk Level 1**

Killruddery has been the home of the Brabazon family, the Earls of Meath, for over 400 years and the gardens still retain a formal layout dating back to the mid-17th century. We will complete a looped walk, taking in the formal parterre areas near the house, the sylvan theatre and the long ponds, the species surviving on an outcrop of rock, woodland areas underplanted with shrubs and others which have a native understorey and the famous beech hedge pond. The walk should take about 2 hours. There is a €10.50 (adult) / €9.50 (senior) fee for entry to the gardens.

Leader: Charles Shier

Meet: in the Cafe in the old Coachyard for tea/coffee, before entering the Gardens and commencing the walk.

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

Directions: From Dublin take the M11/N11 south towards Wicklow and exit at Junction 7 for Bray/Greystones. At the roundabout, follow the R768 for Greystones. The entrance to Killruddery is on the right after 1.8 km. Eircode: A98 W9F2 { GPS: 53.181803, -6.104479 }

Saturday 7th November 2026**Members' Day
Teagasc, National Botanic Gardens**

This year our Members' Day will be held in the Teagasc College of Horticulture in the National Botanic Gardens. We will have a number of interesting presentations in the morning; and viewing of exhibits in the afternoon. All DNFC members are encouraged to bring along and put on display any items 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.

Thursday 19th November 2026**Online Presentation - 7.30 p.m.*****'The Breeding Waders EIP Project'* - Owen Murphy, Senior Project Manager**

The Breeding Waders European Innovation Project (EIP) is a €25 million nationwide project co-funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It aims to secure existing Breeding Wader populations and support population recovery through landscape management and policy development.

Owen Murphy, a wildlife management specialist in ornithology and the conservation of ground-nesting birds, is the senior manager with the project. He will provide us with an overview of the Breeding Waders EIP, the principal actions carried out to date and the achievements of the project so far.

Saturday 21st November 2026**Forest Walk in Devil's Glen, Wicklow**

Risk level 2

The Devil's Glen is a gorge through which the Vartry River flows on its way from the Vartry Reservoir to Ashford Village. The site hosts a mixture of broadleaf and coniferous forest, including stands of beech, Spanish chestnut and ash. We will follow the Waterfall Walk along the valley of the river.

Leader: Rosaleen Fitzgerald

Meet: at the Devil's Glen Waterfall Car Park in the centre of the forest.

Bring: Waterproof clothing, sturdy walking shoes/boots, field lens, plant identification books, lunch & warm drink

Directions Take N11/M11 south and exit at Junction 15 for Ashford and follow the R772 to Ashford Village. Turn right at the roundabout in the centre of the village for Roundwood/Glendalough and after 500 m turn left at the next roundabout onto the R763 for Annamoe & Glendalough. The entrance to Coillte Devil's Glen is on the right after 3.5 km. Go through the car park at the entrance and continue for another 1.9 km until you reach the Waterfall Car Park.
(Discovery Series Map 56: T 248 985). { GPS: 53.023424, -6.143081 }

Saturday 5th December 2026

Plant Identification Workshop Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens

Morning Session

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes – Various presenters

Members are invited to bring material to exhibit, particularly specimens which have been identified by BSBI Referees. The series of short presentations will be delivered by various DNFC members. The BSBI handbooks for Sedges and Grasses are particularly useful but there are many other excellent publications on these topics.

Afternoon Session

Rosa - Declan Doogue

This will give us opportunity to use and consider in detail, the recent BSBI Publication "Wild Roses of Great Britain and Ireland" by the late Roger Maskew and his associate, Gareth Knass (BSBI Handbook No. 26). This work expands on and illustrates with a great selection of images, the wide range of rose hybrids, especially those within the *Rosa canina* aggregate.

Saturday 12th December 2026**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 which has woodland, hedgerows and ponds, with opportunities to see different birds.

Leader: Jim Fitzharris

Meet: at the Turvey Nature Reserve car park

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 2nd roundabout and continue straight ahead onto the R132 for Skerries. At the next small roundabout (1.3 km), 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 1 km, the Car Park entrance will be on the left-hand side. There is ample parking. { GPS: 53.49294, -6.18139 }

Thursday 17th December 2026**Online Presentation - 7.30 p.m.*****‘Wild and Garden Plants Poisonous to Man and Animals’ - Pat Lenihan, DNFC***

The talk will discuss the effects of poisoning caused by some of the most toxic plants in Ireland. It will describe the chemical compounds involved, the clinical signs they produce, as well as potential medical interventions and preventative measures. In addition, it will reference accidental and deliberate, recent and historic cases of human poisonings.

Saturday 26th December 2026**St. Stephen's Day Walk at Portmarnock
Risk Level 1**

An opportunity to walk off some of the excesses of Christmas and enjoy a bit of fresh air on the Portmarnock Estuary.

Leader: Tom Miniter

Meet: at the Golf Links Road, Portmarnock.
{ GPS: 53.420241, -6.136013 }

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

Directions: From Sutton Cross take the R106 north along the coast for Portmarnock. Turn right onto Strand Road (still R106) and after 500 metres turn right onto Golf Links Road at the ‘Jus de Vine’ off-licence. There is roadside parking on the left 100 m down this road, from where we will commence our walk.