

Programme of Events for 2009

Unless otherwise stated, two Club events are held each month

- a lecture at 8pm on the **first Thursday** of each month in the Pump House at the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve (T 076 239) at Arcavan, Wexford, telephone (053) 912 3129. There is ample free parking and non-members of the Club are very welcome to attend lectures. Admission for non-members is €5 and that modest sum includes light refreshments afterwards with the opportunity to meet and chat with like-minded people.
- a field trip on the **second Saturday** of each month at the times and locations detailed below. For insurance purposes, attendance at Club outings is confined to Club members.

January. Thurs 8th (note change of date from 1st): Lecture "Barn Owls in Ireland" by John Lusby, Barn Owl Research Officer, BirdWatch Ireland. **Sat 10th**: Visit to Wexford Wildfowl Reserve with Dominic Berridge, Reserve Warden. Meet at 2pm in the Visitor Centre at the Reserve (T 076 239).

February. Thurs 5th: AGM at 7.00pm followed at 8.00pm by a lecture "Making maps live" by Keith Collie, Mountain Leader. **Sat 14th**: Field trip to the J. F. K. Arboretum with Maria Cullen, Mycologist, to study lichens. Meet at 2pm in the arboretum car park (S 727 193).

March. Thurs 5th: Lecture "Landscapes of the last glaciation" by Professor Pete Coxon, Trinity College Dublin. **Sat 14th**: Cliff walk with Simon Collins, Birdwatcher, to see early migrant birds. Meet at 2pm in the Super Valu car park (T 131 121), Rosslare Harbour.

April. Thurs 2nd: Lecture "The Natural History of Ballyteige Burrow" by Jim Hurley, SWC Promotions. **Sat 11th**: Map and compass workshop with Keith Collie. Meet at 2pm in the small lecture room in the Reception Centre at the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve (T 076 239). Booking essential; please contact Keith at (053) 914 3255. Participants should bring a compass and Discovery sheet No 77 if they already have them; if not, these items should not be purchased.

May. Thurs 7th: Lecture "Tracking Birds" by Professor John O'Halloran, University College Cork. **Sat 9th**: Field trip to Raven Wood Nature Reserve with Roy Watson. Meet at the barrier entrance to the wood (T 111 267) at 2pm. **Sun 17th**: Raven Wood Nature Reserve with Don Conroy, Alan McGuire, and Chris Wilson to hear the dawn chorus. Meet at the barrier entrance to the wood (T 111 267) at 4.30am. Breakfast afterwards at Hotel Curraclloe. **Fri 22nd** (International Day for Biological Diversity): Results and prize-giving by Don Conroy of the WNFC Art Competition at 2pm at the Pump House, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve (T 076 239), North Slob.

June. Thurs 4th: Lecture "Shackles and Leg Irons: bird ringing" by Christopher Wilson, Environmental Consultant. **Sat 13th**: Guided cruise around the Saltee Islands with Jim Hurley departing from Kilmore Quay (S 965 032) (weather permitting). Boat fare €20. Telephone Jim at (053) 912 9671 between 9am and 10am on 13 June to see if

the weather is suitable to put to sea and, if so, to book a place on one of the boats. First boat departs at 12 noon; second boat at 2pm.

July. Thurs 2nd: Lecture “Bats” by Dr Ruth Carden, Ecologist, followed by light refreshments and a bat walk (weather permitting). **Sat 11th:** Nature walk around the pilgrimage route at Lady’s Island with Jim Hurley. Meet at 2pm in the car park (T 106 074) behind the ruined castle on Lady’s Island.

August. Thurs 6th: Lecture “Whales and Dolphins in Irish waters – myth or fact?” by Kevin McCormick, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. **Sat 8th:** Field trip to the Wexford County Council nature trail at Curracloe with Lucy Ellis, Trail Guide. Meet at the information sign in the main car park at White Gap (T 113 275), Curracloe, at 2pm.

September. Thurs 3rd: Lecture “An Taisce’s role in nature conservation” by Anja Murray, Natural Environment Officer, An Taisce. **Sat 12th:** Farm and reed bed visit with Will Warham. Meet at Will’s farm at Jamestown (S 983 312), Oylegate, at 2pm. Weekend **11-13th:** visit to Wales. For further information contact Chris Wilson, (086) 190 0550, trip organiser and leader.

October. Thurs 1st: Lecture “Bats – myths versus reality” by Daniel Buckley, Bat Research Centre, University College Dublin. **Sat 10th:** The Club’s sixth annual Fungal Foray at John F. Kennedy Arboretum, New Ross, to collect mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi. Meet at 2pm in the arboretum car park (S 727 193). Leaders: Roy Watson and Patricia Byrne.

November. Thurs 5th: Lecture “Nature through Drawing and Painting” by Dave Daly, Artist. **Sat 14th:** Workshop on drawing and painting with Dave Daly. Meet at 2pm at the Community Centre (T 105 077) at Lady’s Island.

December. Thurs 3rd: Two audiovisual presentations “The Maudlin Year: Nature through the Seasons” and “On Silent Wings: The Plight of the Barn Owl” by Edno Delaney, Photographer. **Sat 12th:** Field trip to see winter waterbirds at Rosslare Back Strand with Tony Murray, NPWS Conservation Ranger. Meet at 10am (to suit tides) outside the church (T 096 156) in Rosslare Strand.

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Updated on 17 April 2009 by Jim Hurley.