



Wexford Naturalists' Field Club,
c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford, Ireland.

WNFC Newsletter

Issue number 33

March 2014

Welcome to the March issue of WNFC newsletter.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

(Please note all lectures take place in The Pumphouse at 8pm.)

April. Thursday 3rd: "Wild Business" by John Kinsella

This presentation looks at nature conservation and tourism in South Africa on private nature reserves.

Saturday 12th: Surprise Field trip. Meet at 2pm in the car park near Edermine Bridge, Enniscorthy. Bring wellingtons.

Leader: Will Warham.

May. Thursday 1st: "Seaweed is so good for us" by Marie Power, The Sea Gardener.

Saturday 17th: (note date) Field trip to Baginbun Bay to look for edible seaweeds. Meet at 12.30pm outside

St. Mogue's Church, Fethard-on-Sea. **Leader:** Marie Power.

June. Thursday 5th: "The Irish Stoat, Irish Badgers and Ireland's Biodiversity: why numbers of wild mammals matter" by Dr. Paddy Sleeman, University College Cork.

Saturday 14th: Bioblitz at Kilmannock House, Campile. Bring a packed lunch.

Weekend trip: Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd June inclusive to West Cork. Cost €195 for 2 nights B&B and 2 dinners and transport. Single room supplement €40 extra. For further information and booking, contact Mary Foley at (053) 9146573 or for the attention of Mary at info@wexfordnaturalists.com

Date for your diary Join in the Club's 10th Birthday celebrations at the Irish National Heritage Park on Saturday 13th September. Full details in next Newsletter.

If you wish to receive emails with reminders of upcoming club events, and details of other events which may be of interest, please ensure that Nicholas Egan, Membership Secretary, has an up-to-date email address for you. Since events may change due to unforeseen circumstances please check for last minute updates on our website, www.wexfordnaturalists.com or phone Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, (076) 1002660

Where available bring field guides, lenses, binoculars etc. to field events. Don't forget a notebook and pen/pencil to record all you see and hear! There are a number of guide books in the Club Library. Check these out on www.wexfordnaturalists.com/library or find out more details from Will Warham, club librarian.

The club has purchased a pair of binoculars for the use of club members at outdoor events. They will be brought to events by Janet and, if required, can be pre-booked.



Club Members at our Field trip in March (photo J. Coady)

LIBRARY

The complete list of books available in the club's library has been detailed in the attached supplement. Contact Will Warham, club librarian, at any of the club's events if you wish to borrow a book. A more detailed list, which includes ISBN references, is also available on the club's website.

DAWN CHORUS

Join Chris Wilson and Alan McGuire at Tintern Abbey, Saltmills, on Sunday 18th May at 4.30a.m. As with last year's very successful event, the meeting point will be at the main entrance barrier. Breakfast has again been organised at The Wheelhouse, Café, Fethard-on-Sea.

WELCOME

Special welcome to the following new members Sean Byrne, Kilmuckridge; John Coady, Gorey; Brendan, Mary, Emmet & Grainne Stafford, Killanne; Sinead Mahony, Kilkenny.

RECORDING

THE ODONATA OF COUNTY WEXFORD (Dragonfly and Damselfly recording)

The recording of these species is continuing for another season. Please see attached supplement for full details.

Your records, as usual please, to Records Officer at records@wexfordnaturalists.com. Postal records can be sent to Records Officer c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford or dropped into the suggestion box at any lecture.

CLUB JACKETS

We will be submitting an order for Club Jackets shortly. If you are interested in purchasing one please contact Mary Foley on or before Saturday 12th April. Jackets are available in Black, Green or Navy at a price of €55.

AGM REPORT

The AGM was held on Feb. 6th 2014 at The Pumphouse. 46 members attended. The Chairman's Report is available on the club's website www.wexfordnaturalists.com under reports or a copy can be obtained from the Club Secretary c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve or info@wexfordnaturalists.com. The Treasurer's Report is available to members on application to the club Secretary. The committee is as follows (with additional responsibilities in brackets): Chair: Mary Foley (Events); Vice-Chair: Nicholas Egan (Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor); Secretary: Marion Brady (Web Officer); Treasurer: Michael O'Donnell (Records Officer); Committee members: John Kinsella (PRO), Will Warham (Club Library), Janet Whelehan (Club Archive), Deborah D'arcy, Margaret Scally, Simon Collins.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK is from Sat. 17th May to Sun. 25th May with the UN International Day of Biodiversity being celebrated on 22nd May.

Why not join in the celebrations by attending the club's field event in Baginbun on Saturday 17th May or rise early on Sunday 18th May and join the "Wildside" team for the Dawn Chorus at Tintern Abbey.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Facebook is proving quite popular with 138 followers. Follow us to keep up-to-date with what is happening as Facebook is updated regularly.

Don't worry, you don't even have to be signed up to Facebook or Twitter to take a look.

And don't forget you can also send us your photographs via Facebook if you need any help with identification.

The pages are moderated by John Coady, Michael O'Donnell and Nicholas Egan and they would be delighted to welcome more members to the page (see www.wexfordnaturalists.com for details)

IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

Marion Brady is now taking names for the Butterfly Identification Workshop to be held on Sat. 12th July (See brochure for details). Contact Marion at 086 8290163 or email for the attention of Marion at info@wexfordnaturalists.com.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is offering a workshop programme to assist in the recording of Ireland's Biodiversity. A copy of the programme is available from the Club Secretary or can be downloaded at www.biodiversityireland.ie. The club has set aside a small budget to refund members who have booked and paid for any of these workshops. As these courses get booked up very quickly please book and pay direct to The National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford, then apply to Janet Whelehan for a refund which will be dealt with on a first come basis. Tel: Janet at 053 9428015 or 086 3078242 or email for the attention of Janet at info@wexfordnaturalists.com.

CLUB ARCHIVES

In September the club will be holding its 10th anniversary celebrations. The club's archives need to be up-to-date by then. If you have any items of interest pertaining to the club over the last 10 years, i.e. photographs, newspaper cuttings, they would be gratefully received by Janet Whelehan, Archives Officer, at any club event or by email for the attention of Janet info@wexfordnaturalists.com.

HEDGEROW SURVEY

14 people took part in the survey covering 24 stretches of hedgerow around the county. By the end of the year 227 counts had been done resulting in an extraordinary number of records. Over 2,500 records of 59 species accounting for almost 10,000 birds; add to this 16 species of butterfly and 9 bees, not to

mention the 77 records of miscellaneous species, and it becomes obvious how important our hedgerows are and how imperative it is that we protect this vital natural resource.

The full detailed Hedgerow Wildlife 2013 Report by Michael O'Donnell is available on the Club's website (www.wexfordnaturalists.com)

It has been decided to continue with the hedgerow survey. Volunteers please contact Michael O'Donnell at any club event or email him at records@wexfordnaturalists.com for further details.

W is for Wexford.

W is for the Wonderful county Where We live. It is for our Woods, Waterways and Wetlands.

W is for our Wealth of Wildlife and for that remarkable organisation the Wexford Naturalists Field Club, where you are Welcome even if you don't know a Woodpecker from a Wagtail.

Just ten years old, this, a club for all ages, meeting in the Wildfowl Reserve where contact can be made and a leaflet is available to learn about membership.

What better Way to study and appreciate the humming activities of birds, bees and butterflies, bats, beetles and frogs – our flowers, our trees, our Weather.

Our shores are alive with Waves for Windsurfers and the dunes and forests alongside shelter special plants and mammals – all free for the people of Wexford at every time of the year. This is one of our many settings for the special experience of the Dawn Chorus. Our Woodlands are a concert hall. Whisht!

The Heritage Park can be home to a 'bioblitz' and Tintern Abbey the base for a plant hunt. The Walled garden is now coming back to life through restoration.

White-fronted geese from Greenland arrive for us to admire in the autumn When Winter in Greenland drives them to seek a milder climate like ours.

Whales visit around the Hook peninsula, home to more seabirds – a setting of strange rock formation complete with blowholes. A place of Wrecks.

Rocks and pools of southern shores are rich with seaWeeds, shells and Waders.

Or Wander the Winding trails of Wexford's Walled town.

Where Would you find a better place?

W is for Wexford.

Eithne Scallan: March 2014.

BALLYTEIGE BURROW NATURE RESERVE

Ballyteige Burrow Nature Reserve near Kilmore Quay is one of the hidden gems of the South Wexford Coast.

Nature reserves come in a variety of shapes and sizes. At one end of the spectrum a child with a collection of bug boxes, pine cones and sea shells on a window sill may declare his or her treasured collection a nature reserve while, at the other end of the spectrum, the State may designate an extensive area of countryside a nature reserve and grant it statutory protection under Ministerial order.

Between these two extremes there are a number of different nature reserves such as Will Warham's Jamestown Nature Reserve on the banks of the Slaney River. Mark Nolan wrote about that particular reserve in the last issue of this newsletter. The focus in this issue is on statutory nature reserves.

Statutory nature reserves are reserves established by Ministerial order under Section 15 of the *Wildlife Act, 1976*, as amended. The authority responsible for managing the State reserves is the National Parks and Wildlife Service, one of the technical services of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. We have about 70 statutory nature reserves in Ireland and while many of them are on State property, some are located on lands owned by non-governmental organisations such as BirdWatch Ireland and An Taisce and some are on privately-owned land by agreement with the landowner.

Of the 70 or so statutory nature reserves in Ireland, three are in County Wexford: Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, The Raven Nature Reserve and Ballyteige Burrow Nature Reserve. The Wexford Wildfowl Reserve is the showpiece among statutory nature reserves in Ireland; its presence and location are advertised by large table-top signs on the main roads, it has a full-time Warden and staff, car park, reception centre, observation tower, hides and associated facilities. In stark contrast, Ballyteige Burrow Nature Reserve enjoys none of these facilities. Its 540ha are not signposted and public access is limited requiring a long walk from the public road using either private lanes, private lands or along the beach from Kilmore Quay. The reserve is, therefore, accessed only by the initiated with both prior knowledge of its whereabouts and some particular reason for visiting.

The establishment of Ballyteige Burrow Nature Reserve dates from a Ministerial order made on 28 September 1987 (Statutory Instrument Number 279 of 1987) designating 531ha of sand dune, salt marsh and estuary a statutory nature reserve. Three years later, an area of 8.27ha of salt marsh at Lacken, Duncormick, was added to the reserve (S.I. No 8 of 1990) bringing its total area to 539.27ha.

The Ballyteige Burrow area supports such a wealth of natural heritage resource values that, in addition to the nature reserve, it is subject to several other designations including Special Protection Area candidate Special Area of Conservation, proposed Natural Heritage Area, Flora (Protection) Order site, Biogenetic Reserve, etc.

Ballyteige Burrow Nature Reserve is a most wonderful area to spend time in with its wealth of natural heritage resource values to satisfy all interests. With the welcome arrival of springtime it a great area to visit and explore using the village of Kilmore Quay as a base.

For further details, an information sheet about the Ballyteige Burrow area, its complex of sites, habitats, fauna and flora is available as a PDF file on the Clubs website. (*Jim Hurley*)



Sand Dunes in Ballyteige (*photo J. Hurley*)

“**The Lepidoptera of County Wexford**” is for sale at all club events and is great value at €5.

CORRECTION – In the last issue of our Newsletter the captions under the photographs on page 2 were incorrect. The first photograph should read *Bombus barbutellus*, the second *Leucozona lucorum*.

ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be published in June. This is your newsletter, and natural history articles are always welcome. Items for inclusion may be passed on to me, Nicholas Egan, at newsletter.wnfc@gmail.com; or 086 0757976.

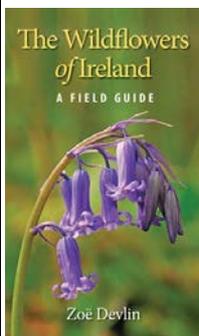
If you would like to save paper and help reduce the club's carbon footprint, please contact Nicholas as above to receive your newsletter by email.

PUBLICATIONS

The Wildflowers of Ireland – A Field Guide (Zoe Devlin)

This pocket guide to Irish wildflowers will help you discover the fascinating world of Ireland's diverse and astonishing collection of native wildflowers; from the insect-eating Sundew to the humble Harebell. This publication features over 530 Irish wildflowers with more than 1,200 of the author's photographs.

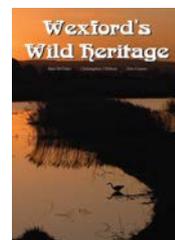
This guide is a must for enthusiasts of all ages and experience and is a complementary companion to the author's “Wildflowers of Ireland – A Personal Record”.



“The Wildflowers of Ireland – A Field Guide” (€14.99) is available in all good bookshops and online from www.collinspress.ie.

Wexford Wild Heritage

A new book by Alan Maguire, Chris Wilson and Don Conroy on their “Wexford's Wild Heritage” series is currently with the printer and will be launched in the near future. Watch this space



JAMESTOWN NATURE RESERVE WORKSHOPS

Sat. 5th April – **Nature in Art** – Dave Daly

Sat. 3rd May – **Growing food and making the best use of space available** – Trevor Sargent.

Sat. 10th May – **Learn about wild good foraging** – Mary Bulfin.

Thurs. 15th May – **Wildflowers for beginners and improvers** – Zoe Devlin.

Sun. 8th June – **Bumblebees** – Janet Whelehan.

Sat. 12th July – **Butterflies** – Chris Wilson.

Sat. 19th July – **Wildflowers** – Zoe Devlin.

To book your place, or to find out more information you can contact Will Warham at 087 2052266 or www.jamestownnaturereserve.com

Wexford Naturalists' Field Club Photo Competition



Subject: Nature in Wexford.



Photos can be of any aspect of nature in Wexford: that spider in the corner, the frog in the pond, that majestic oak tree, those bluebells, anything and everything that shows off our wildlife.

Rules:

Competition is open to members of WNFC only.

Photographs must have been taken in County Wexford in 2013/2014.

Entries are limited to three photos per person and must be submitted digitally by email.

Title of photo, where and when taken, name, address and phone number of photographer must be supplied with each photo.

Entries should be sent by email to:

info@wexfordnaturalists.com



All entries must be submitted by 8th August 2014. Three prizes will be awarded.

Entries will be judged by Jack Malins, wildlife photographer. The judge's decision is final.

Prize giving will take place at the Wexford Naturalists' Field Club 10th Anniversary party on Saturday 13th September 2014 in the Irish National Heritage Park at Ferrycarrig followed by a presentation on "Flora and Fauna of the High Arctic" by Jack Malins. Winners will be notified beforehand and will be invited to join us for the party.

Anyone else wishing to attend the party, prize giving and presentation should contact Marion Brady at info@wexfordnaturalists.com



So dust off those cameras and get snapping. Take the time to stop and look at nature and capture its beauty in an instant with just the click of a shutter.

