



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

WNFC Newsletter

Issue number 38

June

2015

Welcome to the June issue of WNFC newsletter.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

July.

Thursday 2nd: "Co creating a Garden with Nature" by Mary Reynolds, Landscape Designer.

Saturday 11th: "Bumblebees and Afternoon Tea" with Janet Whelehan at Barnland, Killinierin. Meet at 1.30pm at Killinierin School.

August.

Thursday 6th: "Tacumshin Lake" by Jim Hurley, WNFC Member.

Saturday 8th: Club Barbecue. Details will be circulated to members at a later date. Date, time and location to be confirmed. - **Bird Ringing Demonstration** with Chris Wilson and Michael O'Donnell. **N.B.** This event is weather dependent. Further details will be sent out by email and at club events.

September.

Thursday 3rd: "The Silver Hawk (Hen Harrier) - the conservation and ecology of one of Ireland's most threatened wildlife species" by Dr. Barry O'Donoghue, NPWS.

Saturday 12th: Field trip to Tacumshin Lake with Jim Hurley and Roy Watson with the focus on wild flowers, habitats and landforms. Meet at 2pm at the White Hole.

PROGRAMME FOR 2016

If anyone would like to see a particular topic included in next year's programme, or has a suggestion for a field trip, please drop a note into the "Suggestion Box" on lecture nights, post it to WNFC Secretary, c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford or email info@wexfordnaturalists.com
Ideas, comments and constructive criticism always welcome.

NOTE TO MEMBERS

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.

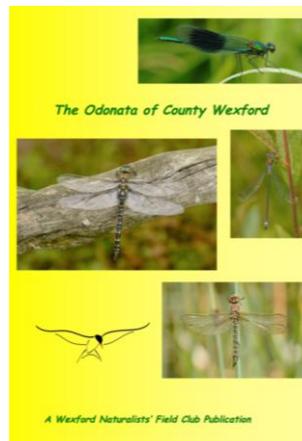
Where available bring field guides, lenses, binoculars etc. to field events. Don't forget a notebook and pen/pencil to record all you see and hear! There are a number of guide books in the Club

Library Check these out on www.wexfordnaturalists.com/library or find out more details from Margaret Scally or Will Warham,

WELCOME

Special welcome to the following new members Jimmy Heeney, Martina Foley.

ODONATA BOOK LAUNCH (words by Terry McNamee)



On Tuesday April 21st, a warm sunny evening as the sun rays shone through the great glass of Wexford Library, the WNFC Publication "The Odonata of County Wexford" on the distribution of Dragonflies and Damselflies was launched. The night was a real success.

It was an extra special night for Nicholas as he managed to take a breath and rein in the emotions to enjoy the experience that only happens once – your first book launch and the arrival of your first born – an incredible moment. A big thank you to

Nicholas for the time and energy put into the book and to his wife Breda for her support and help.

Thanks to Chris Wilson for his time, energy, planning, knowledge and expertise that helped to make this project possible. A massive and appreciative thank you to his wife Annie Wilson for all her wonderful cookies and cakes served with coffee and soft drinks that added immensely to the night.

A big thank you to Alan Maguire for his kind words in officially launching the book, which was printed by C & R Print, and to the staff of Wexford Library for their work and welcome.

Lastly, and most important, thanks to all who submitted records and photos for inclusion in "The Odonata of County Wexford" on the distribution of Dragonflies and Damselflies. A fantastic evening drew to a close and we left with a stunning publication and some of us with cakes and cookies. "The Odonata of County Wexford" is for sale at club events at the special member's price of €4. Why not purchase a copy at the next lecture?

The next WNFC publication will be "The Ladybirds and Shield Bugs of Co. Wexford. Get recording and submit your records to records@wexfordnaturalists.com

The Ladybirds and Shieldbugs of County Wexford – At its meeting on 14th May the committee decided that the Club's next publication will document the Ladybirds and Shieldbugs which occur in, or have been recorded in, County Wexford. The project is being coordinated by Nicholas Egan and Chris Wilson. Every member can get involved by keeping records of ladybirds and shieldbugs seen in his or her garden or local area. Perhaps when you are out and about looking for these insects you might like to take note of what wildflowers are present and these records will be passed on to Paul Green.

Your records, as usual please, to Records Officer at records@wexfordnaturalists.com or through our online recording form at <http://www.wexfordnaturalists.com/recording/records-submission> Postal records can be sent to WNFC Records Officer, c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford or dropped into the suggestion box at any lecture.

CLUB BINOCULARS

The Club has purchased binoculars for use by members on fieldtrips. These can be booked by contacting Janet Whelehan at any club event or email the Club Secretary.

BIOBLITZ

34 members attended the club's recording Bio Blitz held at Newtownbarry House, Bunclody, on Saturday 13th June. 417 species were recorded including Bird's-nest Orchid, a plant last recorded in the count in 1943. We also made a great start to the Ladybird and Shield Bug recording project with four Ladybird species and five Shield Bug species recorded. When validation is completed all records will be entered onto the Club's database and also forwarded to the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Full report can be viewed at <http://www.wexfordnaturalists.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/BioBlitz-2015.pdf>



Bird's-nest Orchid. (photo C. Wilson)



DECEASED MEMBER It was with sadness that members learned of the death of Pat Hayes. Pat had been a long time member of our club and always enjoyed attending lectures and meeting fellow members. May he rest in peace.

(photo credit Larry Doyle)



Chris Wilson leading members on a Nature walk at the Bioblitz (photo Terry McNamee)

FACEBOOK

Sharing ideas, information, and most importantly "records", event invites and discussions are all the welcome features for us at Wexford Naturalists' Field Club. The page features allow the ability to discuss and learn ideas on all aspects of the natural environment and it allows people to post and share their ideas, information, photos and records with a great number of people. Online event listings and sending the invitations to individuals all through Facebook remains a common feature. Wexford Naturalists' utilise regularly these features and the constant introduction of new features to the Timeline, has offered users the chance to highlight topics of significant interest and for users such as us, the chance to prioritise news that we want people to access and read quickly and to keep up to date with the latest news and information from Wexford Naturalists'.

At our Facebook page you will see regular postings of photographs, links to our website and videos. Facebook remains a massive part of most peoples' lifestyle now. So adding to this new lifestyle routine, regular posting remains a priority and part of the daily efforts of Wexford Naturalists' Field Club so continue to like, enjoy and most importantly as it is in all aspects of life share. (Terry Mc Namee).

FEDERATION FIELD MEETING IN WEXFORD 24th – 27th MAY 2015

The event was organized by DNFC with the cooperation of WNFC. 50+ attendees arrived in Whites Hotel on Sunday afternoon and stayed there throughout the event..

Sunday evening walk in Wexford Town. Alan McGuire & Chris Wilson led the 50+ members from all over Ireland, around the town, on the Viking Trail and entertained them with stories from the history and natural history of the town. On Monday morning Michael & Janet opened moth traps at the snipe field, the Pat Walsh hide and at the pumphouse in WWR. This was followed by a talk by Dominic Berridge in the pumphouse, a lunch in Hotel Curraclloe and then a walk at the Raven which was led by Chris Wilson. The evening concluded with a meal and a talk by Jim Hurley on the geology, flora and fauna of Hook Head, where the group were going to spend the next day.

On Tuesday morning the group enjoyed a tour of Tintern Abbey and the walled gardens, with Leader Barrie Hartwell (BNFC). Paula O'Meara and Paul Green were on hand to identify plants but time constraints didn't allow a woodland walk. Hook Head was the next stop for a tour of the lighthouse & lunch. Then Jim Hurley led a walk around the area, where they examined the geology at close quarters.

They also visited Dunbrody Abbey, with leader Barrie Hartwell (BNFC), to complete the ring of Hook. The Tuesday evening talk by Ronan O'Flaherty told the history of Wexford from a different perspective, the peoples of Wexford, where they had originated and how the ordinary people continued to live and work through all the different invasions, from the Vikings through to the present day and how family names from hundreds of years ago are still in evidence today and this is very a very unusual phenomenon which does not occur in any other part of the country. On Wednesday the event finished off with a visit to Johnstown Castle gardens and Irish Agricultural Museum for some of the group and two boat trips around the Saltee Islands for the rest, with Declan Bates from Kilmore Quay.

REQUEST FOR RECORDS

One of the aims of the Club is to encourage the recording of the wildlife of County Wexford. Whether it is through taking part in a systematic survey such as the Hedgerow Survey or noting what you see when you are out and about or even recording what is in your own garden, all information is valuable and is greatly welcomed. It doesn't have to be something rare or unusual. All records, even of the most common species, are welcome. We ask that you submit all your sightings of wildlife in County Wexford, preferably through our online recording form at <http://www.wexfordnaturalists.com/recording/records-submission>, or by any of the other methods mentioned on the records submission page

RECORDING PROJECTS

Working towards a Flora of County Wexford - The work towards a Flora of Co. Wexford commenced in 2008 and will carry on until the end of 2019.

Since 2008, 184,613 records have been collected from across the county. These have all been entered in MapMate the database used for computerising the records. It sounds a lot of records, and is, but there is much recording still to be done for a full even coverage across the county.

There have been some very interesting records made in the first half of this year. For example a new site for Bee Orchids and Western Clover was found on the sea-cliffs east of Bannow Church.

The Blackstairs Mountains have turned up a new site for Adder's-tongue, the 6th site for the county of this rare fern. This was found while updating the only known existing site for Bog-myrtle in the county. There are many other species like Bog-myrtle in the county which were last reported over 20 years ago.

I do prefer records are accompanied by a grid reference from the ordnance survey maps. If you don't know how to do a map reference the following link is very useful.

<http://www.gridreference.ie/>

Anyway do please consider helping, all I need is to know the townland that you saw the plant in, along with the date and finder. All records would be very welcome.

Paul Green

Email: paulnewross@eircom.net

To learn more about the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland Wexford Group and to visit Paul's blog see <http://bsbi.org.uk/wexford.html>

CLUB JACKETS in blue, green or black with the club logo embroidered are available to order from Blazing Embroidery & Logos, Crescent Quay, Wexford.

IRISH NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK DISCOUNT

The management of the Irish National Heritage Park are giving a discounted admission rate of €3 each (normal rate €9) to club

members. Please note the discount applies to the member only and a current WNFC membership card must be presented when purchasing your admission ticket. If you have not received, or have lost your membership card please contact Nicholas Egan Membership Secretary

MARINE LIFE IN KILMORE QUAY

This year is the 30th Kilmore Quay Seafood Festival. Typically titled 'Climate Change' the Festival Lecture by Jim Hurley is on Friday 10th July, 8pm-9pm in the Back Bar, Wooden House, Kilmore Quay. Everyone is very welcome and admission is free. Then, on the following day, Saturday 11th July, Jim is leading a nature walk along the seashore at Nemestown from 4pm to 6pm. Meet at the entrance gate to the marina in Kilmore Quay at 4pm. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS AT WEXFORD WILDFOWL RESERVE

August 22nd to 30th

- Bug Hunt in the Snipe Field, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve; Tuesday 25th 2-4pm
- Nature Walk in the Raven Nature Reserve; Thursday 27th 2-4pm
- Bug & Butterfly Hunt in the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve Visitor Centre; 2-4pm Monday 24th, Wednesday 26th & Sunday 30th
- Shore Walk along Ardcavan Beach; 12noon to 2 pm Friday 28th (low tide)
- Bat Walk & Talk, from the Pump House, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve; 8.30 to 11 pm Saturday 29th
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JAMESTOWN NATURE RESERVE WORKSHOPS

Sat. 25th July – Butterflies and dragonflies with Chris Wilson
Sat/Sun 3rd/4th Oct – Hedge Laying 2 day workshop with Eoin Donnelly.

Sat 17th Oct – Tree walk at Jamestown with Will Warham

For more information on the above workshops, or to book your place call Will Warham on 087 2052266 or alternatively visit the website on www.jamestownnaturereserve.com



Club Members At The Book Launch (photo Terry McNamee)

ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

Compiled and edited by Dave Daly & Nicholas Egan. The next newsletter will be published in September. This is your newsletter, and natural history articles are always welcome. Items for inclusion may be passed on to us, at any club event or newsletter.wnfc@gmail.com

LADY'S ISLAND LAKE TERN CONSERVATION PROJECT

Written by Dave Daly

Lady's Island Lake is situated in the extreme south-east of Ireland and is comprised of a shallow, brackish coastal lagoon separated from the sea by a 200 meter wide sand and shingle barrier. The lake is 3.7 km in length and 1.3 km at its widest, southerly point. Its two islands, Inish and Sgarbheen, are designated Special Protection Areas (SPA), holding internationally important numbers of breeding terns.

The Lady's Island Lake Tern Conservation Project is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and is now in its 33rd year. To date, the number of breeding pairs of terns and gulls is 5818.

In a year when fledging success is high, nearly 20,000 individual birds can be present on the islands in July. Counting of nests (censusing) is done in good weather conditions, using light rope laid out in meter wide corridors and the nests recorded on 'tally-counters' giving a very accurate account of the nests present.

At present, the sandwich tern colony on Sgarbheen (the smaller island) is in full view from the pilgrimage path and well worth a look.

The list of nesting pairs is as follows;
2012 pairs of Black-headed Gulls
28 pairs of Mediterranean Gulls (a species first recorded breeding in 1996)
1799 pairs of Sandwich Terns.
940 Common Terns.
837 Arctic Terns.
202 Roseate Terns.

Other breeding species include:

Mallard
Gadwall
Shelduck
Shoveler
Oystercatcher
Redshanks
Ringed plover



ROSEATE TERN with a sandeel (photo Dave Daly)

WNFC adopted nest box 2015.

Roseate Tern AD52, a chick hatched on 6th June was adopted by WNFC in 2011.

Its parents were 89F0 (itself ringed as a chick 16th June 2006) and 32F0 (ringed as a chick on 12th June 2006).

Both these adults were recorded as a breeding pair in 2012 and again in 2013.

89F0 was not seen in 2014 or to date this year, so is likely dead.

Chick AD52 has not been recorded since it hatched in 2011.

Last year, 32F0, the partner of 89F0, was paired a new bird 66Y0 (itself ringed as a chick 16th June 2009).

66Y0 has been seen this year but its nest has not been located.

32F0 is now paired with 59V3 and laid their first egg in Box 49 on the 19th May followed by a second egg on the 22nd May.

Only one egg has hatched and that chick was ringed as a day old on 11th June 2015.

Its ring number is 95DB and is now the new WNFC adopted chick with parent's 32F0 and 59V3.

95DB is unlikely to be seen again until at least 2017, as young birds do not return to the colony to breed until their 3rd calendar year.

We will watch their progress over the coming seasons.



95DB 11th June 2015