



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

WNFC Newsletter

Issue number 37

March

2015

Welcome to the March issue of WNFC newsletter.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

(All lectures commence at 8pm. Please note that the May lecture takes place in Gorey Library, the April and June lectures take place, as usual, in The Pumphouse)

April. Thursday 2nd: "Soils of Ireland" by Iolanda Simo and Lilian O'Sullivan, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle.

Saturday 11th: Ladybird Identification Workshop with Gill Weyman, 10am-4pm at The Pumphouse, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. Cost €5, including lunch. See below for further information.

May. Thursday 7th: "The Work of the Native Woodland Trust" by Rebecca Doyle, Reserves and Education Officer, Native Woodland Trust.

Saturday 9th: Walk in Camolin Park Wood with Zoë Devlin and Deborah D'Arcy. Meet at 2pm in the car park in Camolin Park Wood (T 059 550).

June. Thursday 4th: "A Case Study of a Rural Hedgehog Population, insights into factors affecting their behaviour and habitat use" by Dr. Amy Haigh, Ecologist.

Saturday 13th: 10am-4pm Mini Bio Blitz at Newtownbarry House, Bunclody (S 914 572) with Michael O'Donnell, Will Warham and Chris Wilson

Since events may change due to unforeseen circumstances please check for last minute updates by email, on our website www.wexfordnaturalists.com or phone Wexford Wildfowl Reserve on (076) 1002660.

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,

IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

Marion Brady is now taking names for the Club's Ladybird Identification Workshop which will be held on Saturday 11th

April at The Pumphouse (see the Club brochure for details). Contact Marion on (086) 8290163 or email at info@wexfordnaturalists.com



ORANGE LADYBIRD (photo N. Egan)

The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) is offering a number of workshop programmes to assist in the recording of Ireland's Biodiversity. Details are on the Club notice board in the Pumphouse, available from the Club Secretary and on the NBDC website www.biodiversityireland.ie/events. Places are limited and advance booking is essential. If any member wishes to attend a workshop the Club committee has set aside a sum of money to cover the **workshop fee**. All other expenses will be borne by the member. Places should be booked directly with the NBDC and applications for refunds, which will be on a first come basis, can be made to the Club Secretary or email info@wexfordnaturalists.com.

WELCOME

Special welcome to the following new members Terry McNamee, Jackie McCann, Ann O'Connor, Edith and Charlie Pritchard.

AGM REPORT

The AGM was held on February 5th 2015 at The Pumphouse. The Chairman's Report is available on the club's website: <http://www.wexfordnaturalists.com/fieldtrip-reports/event-reports-2015>, or 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 Secretary. The committee is as follows (with additional responsibilities in brackets):

Chair: Mary Foley
Vice-Chair: Nicholas Egan (Membership Secretary and Joint Newsletter Editor)
Secretary: John Kinsella (PRO)
Treasurer: Marion Brady (Web Officer)
Committee members: Dave Daly (Joint Newsletter Editor)
Deborah D'Arcy (Records Officer)
Terry McNamee (Events Organiser and Facebook)
Margaret Scally (Club Library)
Will Warham (Club Library)
Janet Whelehan (Club Archive).

ODONATA BOOK LAUNCH



You are invited to the launch of **“The Odonata of County Wexford”** by Nicholas Egan and Chris Wilson in Wexford Library at 6.45pm on Tuesday 21st April. The book will be on sale at the special price of €4 to club members. See attached invitation.

DAWN CHORUS

Join Don Conroy, Alan McGuire and Chris Wilson to hear the dawn chorus in the Raven Nature Reserve on Sunday 17th May. Meet at the barrier entrance to the wood (T 111 267) at 4.30am. Breakfast afterwards at Hotel Curraclloe

CLUB OUTING TO CABRAGH WETLANDS



CLUB MEMBERS ON THE CABRAGH TRIP (photo M. O'Connor)

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.

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

R.L Praeger established the Irish Field Club Union in the late 1900s. Over a century later, the Federation of Irish Field Clubs was reinstated and the first meeting took place in Fermanagh in 2013.

This year, for the first time, Wexford will host the All Ireland Naturalist's Field Club conference in White's Hotel from Sunday 24th to Wednesday 27th May 2015. A timetable of events has

been organized to take place throughout the four days with interesting talks, walks and visits to many of Wexford's premier natural locations. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet people from other Field Clubs, and to hear some of the foremost speakers on the natural environment.

The meeting is open to all WNFC members and members of Field Clubs, Wildlife Clubs and similar organisations interested in nature and the promotion of field crafts. See timetable and costs below and note some events have a limit on numbers so please book early. Any members of WNFC wishing to attend any of these events please contact Marion Brady on (086) 8290163 or email at info@wexfordnaturalists.com

LEAVE NO TRACE

Following the Club's adoption of the "Leave No Trace" Outdoor Ethics Education Programme twenty-six members attended a "Leave no Trace" Awareness Workshop in the Irish National Heritage Park on 14th February. This programme is based on seven principles which members are encouraged to promote and share when going out to enjoy our countryside. Booklets outlining details of the programme are available at Club lectures. For more information see www.leavenotraceireland.org



LEAVE NO TRACE WORKSHOP (photo J.Whelehan)

REQUEST FOR RECORDS

One of the aims of the Club is to encourage the recording of the wildlife of 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

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

ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

Compiled and edited by Dave Daly & Nicholas Egan. 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 us, at any club event or newsletter.wnfc@gmail.com