



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

WNFC Newsletter

Issue Number 39

September

2015

Welcome to the September issue of WNFC newsletter.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

October.

Thursday 1st: "Nature's Year" by Edno Delaney, WNFC Member

Saturday 10th: Conservation works at Raven Wood Nature Reserve with NPWS. Meet at 11am at the barrier entrance to the wood. Bring a packed lunch.

November.

Thursday 5th: "Coastal Protection in County Wexford" by Phil Callery, Consultant Engineer.

Saturday 14th: Cullenstown – a case study in coastal erosion and protection with Jim Hurley. Meet at 2pm on Cullenstown Strand.

December.

Thursday 3rd: "Red Grouse in Ireland" by Kieran Buckley, Irish Grey Partridge Conservation Trust.

Saturday 12th: Enniscorthy River Walk with Simon Collins. Meet at 10am at the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy

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 Kevin John Freeney, Debbie Murphy, Paul Shannon, Jonathan Derham.

LIBRARY

We would like to remind members that we have a well stocked library with titles covering many aspects of natural history. With the longer nights approaching there may be more time to extend your knowledge, so we encourage members to make use of the library, open for use in Reserve after monthly lecture.

Full list of titles available on our website, note some new titles have been added recently. Contact Will Warham or Margaret Scally if you would like them to put a hold on a book for you.

Also we would like to remind any members who may have borrowed a book more than three months ago to return it as soon as possible, thus removing the need for us having to issue reminders.

Also if any members have any ideas on books that the library might acquire we would be delighted to hear your suggestions.

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 Mary Foley. 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.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has recently published a swatch to help with identifying ladybirds which we will have for sale at lectures.

Since July 1st there have been 28 new squares for Ladybirds and 18 new squares for Shieldbugs.

To assist with all recordings, a map with place names in county squares is printed on the back page of this newsletter.

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.

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'.

On 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).

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

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.

THE WOOL CARDER BEE

Written by Dave Daly

On the 12th August 2015, I took a photograph of a solitary bee (see attached) in my garden. A few days later, I sent it to the Biodiversity Centre on the advice of Janet Whelehan, herself an expert on bee identification.

The extract below is from a press release issued by the centre;

The Wool-carder Bee (*Anthidium manicatum*) has migrated from Britain to set up home in Ireland for the first time. Tracy Anne Fennell, a volunteer bumblebee recorder for the National Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, spotted the unusual looking bee feeding on flowers in her garden near Courtown in Co. Wexford in late July. She sent the photograph to the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and to the delight of the Centre's bee experts, Dr Tomás Murray and Dr Úna FitzPatrick, they confirmed it was a new species to Ireland. A chance visit to a site in New Ross a week later by Úna FitzPatrick saw it turn up again and allowed

the collection of a specimen to confirm the existence of the Wool-carder Bee in Ireland. It has since been photographed just south of Wexford town by another volunteer, David Daly.

Ireland now has 98 different bee species, including the honeybee, 20 different bumblebee species, and 77 different solitary species. This newest addition becomes one of our largest solitary bee species, and also probably the most distinctive. Both male and female Wool-carder Bees have a pattern of yellowish markings along the side of the abdomen, head and legs. The female collects pollen on the underside of the abdomen in a brush of rearward pointing hairs, which makes her an excellent pollinator of a range of garden and wild flowers.

In Britain the Wool-carder bee occurs in flower rich habitats, including parks and gardens. The females collect pollen from a number of species of plant, but favour those which have tubular flowers (such as Mint family). They make their nests in existing holes in wood or hollow stems. It gets its English name from the bees' behaviour of shaving hairs off plant stems to use in the construction of brood cells.



ART EXHIBITION

Wildlife artist, and WNFC member, Dave Daly will hold his annual Art Exhibition at the Pumphouse, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. Exhibition opens at 4pm on Saturday 24th Oct to 1st Nov 10-5 daily. All welcome.



Club Members at our recent trip to Tacumshin Lake (photo T McNamee)

ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

Compiled and edited by Dave Daly & Nicholas Egan. The next newsletter will be published in December. 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

Christopher John Wilson [CJ] (1946 ~2015)

Written by Lorcan Scott



On Saturday the 22nd of August I returned to Ireland from an extended holiday and the first text I received at Dublin Airport was the sad news that Chris Wilson as he was known to many, CJ as he was known to his colleagues or Christopher John as he was referred to by Ann when he forgot to take off his muddy boots before putting on the kettle, had passed away. This was a sudden loss, Chris had called me and many others to prepare us of the impending end, a call made with great strength and a deep understanding of what was facing him, but his call in July was hoping for a longer period for all to adjust to what was to come. He called from Wexford General to book an appointment with a living Pine Marten a nuisance “boggy species” for Chris and one he would have dearly hoped to have ticked off, alas there wasn’t enough time for that in the few short weeks remaining for me to source a willing Marten.

I first met Chris in Avondale, Co. Wicklow when we were inducted into the National Parks & Wildlife Service in 1992; Chris was a larger than life ex-London bobby who had committed to Ireland to return with Ann some years earlier. Anyone who met Chris, or Ann, will know they greet you with a huge smile and cheerful disposition and from the first Chris took many of us younger Rangers under his wing and he was always available to assist in whatever issue was to hand.

Chris was born in Kent and educated in England and Africa; in 1987 he became an Irish Citizen and turned native. In 1999, together with his brother David, he was the first member of his family to manage the return visit to Antarctica – Cape Evans, Ross Island, where his famous Great Uncle, Dr. Edward Wilson, had died with Captain Robert Falcon Scott on their return journey from the South Pole in 1912.

With his brother, David, Chris worked hard to support The Wilson, the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, which was founded by their Great-grandfather, and recently renamed in honour of the Wilson family. To celebrate the centenary of the death of his famous Antarctic forebear with Captain Scott in 2012, Chris had donated several pictures and other items which had belonged to Edward Wilson.

At the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, CJ managed Ireland’s premier Greenland White-fronted Geese site and revelled in the landscape and beauty it provided, especially the views afforded from his and Annie’s home on a winter’s morn. Greenland White-fronted geese had originally been identified by Sir Peter Scott, of Slimbridge fame and the son of Captain Scott. Sir Peter had become a naturalist as a result of the last letter of Captain Scott who had written to his widow “make the boy interested in natural history if you can... “lines inspired by his friendship with the Cheltenham naturalist Edward Wilson who lay dying by his side. In later life Chris took on his Diploma at UCC and worked on the breeding biology of the Tree Sparrow, which led on to him being elected as a Scientific Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. Chris’s earlier work also brought him to work on the conservation of the Orange-bellied Parrot in South Australia while on a NPWS secondment.

Chris was a founding enthusiastic member of The Wexford Naturalist Field Club in October 2004 and held many posts for the club culminating in the post of Club Chairperson. We remember his ardent work on club administration / publications, his wonderful, colourful and entertaining talks and field events over the years since.

Post NPWS Warden Chris joined Dave Daly as a tern warden for NPWS at Lady’s Island Lake in Wexford for a few seasons and continued his travels south to lecture on many Antarctic cruise ships over the Irish winters and campaigned tirelessly, if unsuccessfully, to persuade the Irish Government to sign the Antarctic Treaty. He also continued his other passion for broadcasting with his close friends Alan McGuire and (Uncle) Don Conroy both independently and through South East Radio.

Chris’s work and enthusiasm was infectious and his legacy is testament to that. Wherever I go around either the North Slobs or the Raven Wood National Nature Reserve I see aspects of Chris, great areas for Gatekeeper or Small Blue butterflies or Crossbills at the Raven, early morning ringing sessions at their home to the music of calling House Martins, truly great memories.

We together with Ann and NPWS are due to give Chris his “Seol Amach” on October 18th at the WWR pumphouse and we hope all who wish to will attend in his honour. Further details to follow by email update.

Place Names in Wexford Squares

				T07 Ballyday Wingfield	T17 Ballythomas Croghan	T27 Area west of M11 & NE Coolgreany
			S96 Garyhasten Watch Hse. Village Coolmeela	T06 Monaseed Ballyellis	T16 Gorey (part) Inch Coolgreany Hollyfort	T26 Ballymoney Tara Hill Castletown Kilmichael Pt.
		S85 Black Rock Mt.	S95 Bunclody Clohamon Ballyroebeck Tombrack	T05 Ferns (part) Askamore Craanford Camolin	T15 Courtown (part) Clogh Gorey (part) Ballycanew	T25 Seafield Rooney Pt Courtown (part)
	S74 Carrigroe	S84 Killanne Kiltealy Ballindaggin	S94 Enniscorthy (part) Scarawalsh Ballycarney Marshalstown	T04 The Harrow Ferns (part) Boolavogue Oulart	T14 Kilmuckridge Monamolín Ballygarret (part) Morriscastle	T24 Ballinoulart Ballygarrett (part) Cahore Pt.
	S73 Ballyanne Ballywilliam White Mt. Rathgarogue	S83 Palace Rathnure Courtnacuddy Clonroche	S93 Bree Oylegate (part) Davidstown Enniscorthy (part)	T03 Oylegate (part) The Ballagh Ballymurn Screen (part)	T13 Ballyvalloo Blackwater Ballyvaldon	
S62 Stokestown Killowen Dunganstown	S72 Ballykelly New Ross Cushinstown Terrerath	S82 Newbawn Carrigbyrne Adamstown Carroreigh	S92 Taghmon (part) Galbally Glynn Killurin	T02 Wexford Town Castlebridge North Slob Curracloe (part)	T12 Ballinesker Raven Point Curracloe (part)	
S61 Great Island Fisherstown	S71 Arthurstown Campile Gusserane Tintern Abbey	S81 St Leonards Wellingtonbridge Foulksmills Carrig-on-Bannow	S91 Cleariestown Taghmon (part) Forth Mt. Mulrankin	T01 Drinagh Killinick Rosslare (part) Mayglass	T11 Rosslare(part) Tagoat Rosslare Harbour	
	S70 Saltmills Fethard	S80 Baginbun Head Bannow Ballygow Cullenstown	S90 Duncormick Bridgetown Kilmore Quay	T00 Tomhaggard Broadway Tacumshin	T10 Lady's Island Carnsore Pt.	
	X79 Hook Head		X99 Saltee Islands			