

Federation on Irish Field Clubs Wexford Outing 24 – 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. The rooms, meals and staff were complimented by who all enjoyed the hospitality afforded them at this venue.



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 was finished off 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 Ronal 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.



The Organizers' from DNFC, Charles Shier and Dorothy Lyle, asked me to thank all the leaders and lecturers for making this event so successful. The feedback from all the attendees was terrific, which made the task of helping to coordinate it very worthwhile for me, Marion Brady. Hopefully more members of WNFC will attend future events which the FIFC intend to run in different venues around Ireland, these will be publicized online and in our newsletters.