



**Kildare**  
**BIODIVERSITY**  
**WEEK**



**2023**



*'The truth is: the natural world is changing and we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it' - David Attenborough*

Funded by  
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council

**Friday 19th - Sunday 28th May**



## Kildare Biodiversity Week 2023 Events Friday 19th - Sunday 28th May 2023

**Kildare Biodiversity Week** has been organised to develop awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to better understand its value to the local, national and international communities. Kildare Biodiversity Week is part of a European initiative to encourage people to take an interest in their local Biodiversity. The people of Kildare are invited to get out into Kildare's Biodiversity, to visit Kildare wild spots, lakes, rivers, bogs, woodlands or to simply enjoy the biodiversity of their back garden.

This listing of events has been compiled by Kildare County Council. All events listed here are free. Children are welcome but should be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please dress suitably for the weather. Dogs must be on leads.

### **National Biodiversity Week**

#### **– Coordinated by Irish Environmental Network**

There may be additional events organised post publication of this guide and so further details of events can be found at [www.ien.ie](http://www.ien.ie). IEN collate all events for National Biodiversity Week across the country. It is, therefore, advised to check out for other events Kildare organised since the publication of this guide and events in other counties.

*Photographic credits to: Zoe Devlin, Eddie Dunne,  
Cherry Townsend, Steven Falk & Mike Browne*

# IEN BIODIVERSITY SCAVENGER HUNT

There are lots of things living in your garden and local parks or wild areas. Take part in the scavenger hunt to see what you can find. Will you be able to complete the hunt?

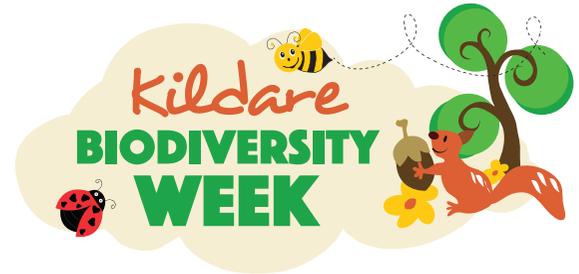


Our Scavenger Hunt and activity sheets ensure that the whole family can take part in the weekend fun, and have some time away from screens. Head outside to see what you can find! Look for animals and plants with the Wildlife Activity Sheet. Then solve the puzzles on the back of sheet. Use the Sensory Activity Sheet to use your other senses to explore, hunt out smells, textures and more! On the back of this sheet you can use chalks, paints or whatever you have at home to take bark rubbings and make your own nature crown. Choose one, or pick and mix. Whichever you like! Both sheets are for all ages, so you can choose which would suit you best.

**You can complete the Hunt or Challenges at any time, but be sure to share them with the IEN on the weekend of May 20th – 22nd to be in with a chance to win a prize!**

*The IEN would love to see your completed Scavenger Hunt or Bio Challenge. Post a photo on Twitter or Instagram with #BioHunt. Tag them on Twitter @IrishEnvNet or Instagram @national.biodiversity.week.*

All posts will be entered into a draw to win a prize from the National Biodiversity Data Centre! \* To help you in your future identification, you can win an ID swatch of your choice! \*Each username will be entered into the draw once. Two prizes available. Sheets available from: Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt - National Biodiversity Week.



## Biodiversity

The word ‘*biodiversity*’ is coined from biological diversity, which, put simply is another way of referring to the variety of life on the planet. Biodiversity is about the variety of plant and animal species and the interaction between them. It is this interaction that is essential for life, giving us all the things we need - clean air, water, agriculture, food and amenity.

Biodiversity is the foundation for life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It therefore underpins peoples’ livelihoods and sustainable development in all areas of activity, including economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others. By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well-being.

### Kildare’s Wild Places

Kfm, in association with Kildare County Council and Biodiversity Week, takes you to some of Kildare’s Unique Natural Habitats: The Curragh, Ballinafagh Lake, Pollardstown Fen, Donadea Forest Park and Kildare Birds and Bats.

Tune in during Biodiversity Week, from Friday May 19th, to sample the atmosphere and sounds of “*Kildare’s Wild Places*”.

The K Documentary series: Kildare’s Wild Places, is produced for Kfm by Juanita Browne, Crossing The Line Films

**1**

Friday 19th May

“Kildare’s Wild Places”: The Curragh:  
with Ecologist Mary O’Connor

**KILDARE****97.6fm 97.3fm****Proud To Be Yours****Time:** 10.10**Location:** During Kildare Today on Kfm

Tune in to hear about the ecology of the Curragh Plains which support a variety of species and habitats. A proposed Natural Heritage Area, the Curragh is probably the oldest and certainly the most extensive tract of semi-natural grassland in Ireland. A lowland acidic grassland, the Curragh supports important populations of rare fungi. It is also of national importance for populations of wintering golden plover and lapwing.

The K Documentary series: Kildare’s Wild Places, is produced for Kfm by Juanita Browne, Crossing The Line Films.

**2**

Friday 19th May

Bumble Bee Identification Walk  
- Castletown

**Time:** 13.30 - 14.30**Location:** Castletown Parklands, Celbridge

Take a walk in Castletown Parklands, catch some bumblebees and help to identify them with our Head Gardener Rory Finnegan. A video of how the Castletown Parklands are managed for wildlife will be on view every day in our stables at Castletown House.

# 3

## Friday 19th May Urban Biodiversity Foraging Walk and Talk



**Time:** 16.00 -18.00  
**Meeting Point:** Outside the Heritage Centre, Kildare Town  
**Contact details:** Email [info@kildareheritage.com](mailto:info@kildareheritage.com)

Join us in one of Ireland's oldest towns for a leisurely walk around the town discovering some of the hidden gems you can forage. Urban spaces have a surprising supply of natural herbs and edible flowers. Discover the food and medicine all around you in Kildare Town, in association with Kildare Town Tidy Towns and Kildare Heritage Centre.

# 4

## Friday 19th May Tour of Naas' Nature by Bike



**Time:** 16.00 -18.00  
**Meeting Point:** Car Park at Monread Park, Naas  
**Contact:** Email [naasbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:naasbiodiversity@gmail.com)

Join a family-friendly cycle around the town's nature spots with the Naas Biodiversity Group and Naas Cycling Campaign. We'll be stopping off at some of the great biodiversity projects completed by local community groups and brainstorm future projects! Registration is not necessary and children are more than welcome.

5

Saturday 20th May - World Bee Day  
Boglands Birds



**Time:** 10.00  
**Meeting Point:** Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore,  
Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293  
**Contact Details:** 045 860133 or bogs@ipcc.ie

Join the IPCC as we take you on a walk to Lodge Bog and share with you the diversity of birds that use this wetland raised bog to nest or simply just to feed. Participants should wear strong boots and clothes appropriate for the outdoors.

6

Saturday 20th May - World Bee Day  
Amphibians, Mini-Beasts  
and Insect Eating Plants of Bogs



**Time:** 11.00 - 13.00  
**Meeting Point:** Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore,  
Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293  
**Contact Details:** 045 860133 or bogs@ipcc.ie

For the young bogland explorer join the IPCC for a fun filled morning of pond dipping, insect eating plants, amphibian searches and crafts at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. Young people should be accompanied by an adult at all times. No booking required.



**Time:** 14.00 - 17.00  
**Location:** Castletown House and Parklands,  
 Celbridge

Join us in our Biodiversity garden at Castletown House and take the opportunity for a photograph up close and personal with our Bee sculptures. There will be pamphlets and posters available to help with pollinators for your garden. A video of how we manage the Castletown Parklands for wildlife will be on view every day in our stables at Castletown House.

## The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC)



The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) is a national charity (CHY6829, RCN 20013547) based at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. Established in 1982 the IPCC's mission is to conserve a representative sample of Irish peatlands for people to enjoy today and in the future. The IPCC give a voice to Irish peatland habitats and their associated ecosystem services through the Save the Bogs Campaign. This is the longest running campaign of the Council focusing on peatland research, species monitoring, policy and education. The IPCC owns two peatland reserves locally. Lodge Bog is an example of a raised bog habitat and Lullymore West is an abandoned cutaway that has regenerated as wet grassland known nationally for its diversity of butterflies.

Volunteers support the work of the IPCC and you are invited to get involved. You can also support the IPCC by joining as a Friend of the Bog. Discover the wet and wild peatlands of Ireland by visiting the IPCC or taking part in Féile and Dúlra, IPCC's free Festival of Nature. Learn more about the Council's work taking action for peatlands and biodiversity and find out how you can get involved by visiting [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)  
**Contact the IPCC at 045-860133 or [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)**



8

Saturday 20th May - World Bee Day  
Opening of Kilcullen Community  
Garden and Family Picnic



**Time:** 14.00  
**Meeting Point:** Kilcullen Community Garden  
beside Kilcullen Library

Enjoy the peaceful surrounds of our Herb and wildflower Area. Enjoy the story of the Community effort that has transformed this once derelict site. The older generation can tell stories of their time in the school before it became a Library. Bring your own picnic and baked treats to share with all. Relax and enjoy the space with young and old sharing stories and time together.

9

Saturday 20th May - World Bee Day  
Hedge Walk with Hedgerows Ireland  
- Celbridge



**Time:** 11.00 - 13.00  
**Meeting Place:** Farm near Liffey View in Celbridge  
Parking info will be provided  
on booking  
**Booking:** Email [info@hedgerows.ie](mailto:info@hedgerows.ie)

Free event organised by Hedgerow Ireland. Join us in exploring the plants and animals that live in hedgerows, understand the benefits of hedge laying and how this wonderful habitat can protect our land from drought and flooding. The hedges are farm hedges - so it is a great opportunity to see how hedge laying can be incorporated into farm management.

***Please note this event must be booked in advance due to limited spaces.***

# 10

Sunday 21st May  
Nancy's Lane Nature Walk



**Time:** 17.00  
**Meeting place:** Entrance to Abbott Field housing estate, Clane

Join Clane Tidy Towns for a gentle nature walk along Clane's historic Nancy's Lane. A local guide will introduce some of the plants and animals that can be found on our doorstep. All are welcome!

# 11

Monday 22nd May  
"Kildare's Wild Places":  
Ballynafagh Bog: Conserving our Bogs  
with Dr Catherine O'Connell,  
Irish Peatland Conservation Council



**Time:** 10.10  
**Location:** During Kildare Today on KFM

Raised bogs are a rare habitat in Europe, and in Ireland continue to be under threat. Ballynafagh Bog, although damaged, is of added interest as the most easterly site with a high proportion of intact raised bog habitat remaining in Ireland. Dr O'Connell will tell us about this intact raised bog habitat.

The K Documentary series: Kildare's Wild Places, is produced for Kfm by Juanita Browne, Crossing The Line Films.

# 12

Monday 22nd May  
Bumble Bee Identification Walk



**Time:** 13.30 -14.30  
**Location:** Castletown Parklands, Celbridge

Catch some bumble bees, help to identify them with our Head Gardener Rory Finnegan. A video of how we manage the Castletown Parklands for wildlife will be on view every day in our stables at Castletown House.

# 13

Monday 22nd May  
Bat Walk with Kildare Bat Group  
St Catherine's Park, Leixlip



**Time:** 21.30  
**Meeting point** St Catherines Park, meet at fire station in Leixlip  
**Booking:** [kildarebatgroup@gmail.com](mailto:kildarebatgroup@gmail.com)

Join Anna Collins from Kildare Bat Group to learn about the wonderful and weird world of bats.

***Please note this event must be booked in advance.***

# National Biodiversity Data Centre

Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



## Free Biodiversity Posters

Available from National Biodiversity Data centre website under publications:

- Dragonflies and Damselflies of Ireland
- Snáthaidí móra na hÉireann
- Irish Seaweeds
- Feamainní na hÉireann
- Rockpooling Map of Ireland
- Éisc agus Inveirteabraigh Idirthaoideacha
- Marine Bivalves of Ireland
- Débhlaoscaigh na hÉireann
- Shieldbugs of Ireland
- Frídí scéithe na hÉireann
- Butterflies of Ireland
- Féileacáin na hÉireann
- Bumblebees of Ireland poster
- Bumbóga na hÉireann
- On the farm
- In the woodlands
- On the wetlands



# 14

Tuesday 23rd May

Dusk Chorus along Grand Canal Sallins



**Time:** 19.30

**Meeting Point:** Meet on the Grand canal bank in Sallins, opposite the old Odlums Mill

Walk along the Grand Canal, Sallins, to enjoy the dusk chorus. This outdoor event will be run in co-ordination with Sallins Biodiversity Group. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

# 15

Tuesday 23rd May  
"Kildare's Wild Places":  
Pollardstown Fen with Michael Jacob



**Time:** 10.10  
**Location:** During Kildare Today on KFM

Tune in to hear Michael Jacob take you on a journey through Pollardstown Fen, the largest remaining calcareous spring-fed fen in Ireland. Recognised as an internationally important fen ecosystem with unique and endangered plant communities, it contains a number of rare vegetation types and invertebrates.

The K Documentary series: Kildare's Wild Places, is produced for Kfm by Juanita Browne, Crossing The Line Films.

# 16

Tuesday 23rd May  
Butterflies of Lullymore West Bog



**Time:** 11.00 - 13.00  
**Meeting point:** Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293  
**Contact details:** 045 860133 or bogs@ipcc.ie

Join the IPCC as we take you on a guided walk to Lullymore West Nature Reserve. This site is known nationally as a butterfly haven with 26 of Ireland's 35 butterfly species recorded on the site including the threatened Marsh Fritillary butterfly. Participants should wear strong boots and clothes appropriate for the outdoors.

**17**

Tuesday 23rd May

**Children's Biodiversity Workshops  
at The Irish National Stud**

**Time:** 12.00  
**Location:** Irish National Stud Reception  
**Booking:** Email [reservations@irishnationalstud.ie](mailto:reservations@irishnationalstud.ie)

The perfect day out for school tours and families to learn about Ireland's biodiversity from industry leading experts in a fun, hands-on practical way. Tickets also include a guided public tour and access to the Irish National Stud & Gardens. For more information or to book tickets please email [reservations@irishnationalstud.ie](mailto:reservations@irishnationalstud.ie)

***Please note this event must be booked in advance due to limited spaces.***

**18**

Wednesday 24th May

**"Kildare's Wild Places":  
Donadea Forest Park:  
Native Woodland Trust, Jim Lawlor**

**Time:** 10.10  
**Location:** During Kildare Today on KFM

Join Jim Lawlor on a journey through Donadea Forest, old demesne woodland. Donadea Castle and estate was the old home of the Aylmer family up until 1935 when the last member of the family, Miss Caroline died. It is a National Heritage Area. There are many historical features including the remains of the castle and walled gardens, St. Peter's church, an ice house and boat house. The site is notable for the presence of two rare species of Myxomycete fungus, namely *Diderma chondrioderma* and *Licea testudinacea*, the latter in one of only two known Irish sites.

The K Documentary series: Kildare's Wild Places, is produced for Kfm by Juanita Browne, Crossing The Line Films.

19

Wednesday 24th May

The Secret Life of the Solitary Bee - talk



**Time:** 10.30

**Location:** Castletown House, Celbridge

A talk on the life of the solitary bee by our Head Gardener Rory Finnegan in the Stable courtyard. A video of how we manage the Castletown Parklands for wildlife will be on view every day in our stables at Castletown House.

20

Wednesday 24th May

Willow Workshop  
in our Biodiversity Garden



**Time:** 11.00 – 12.30

**Location:** John Sullivan (Irish Wheelchair Association), Clane, Co. Kildare

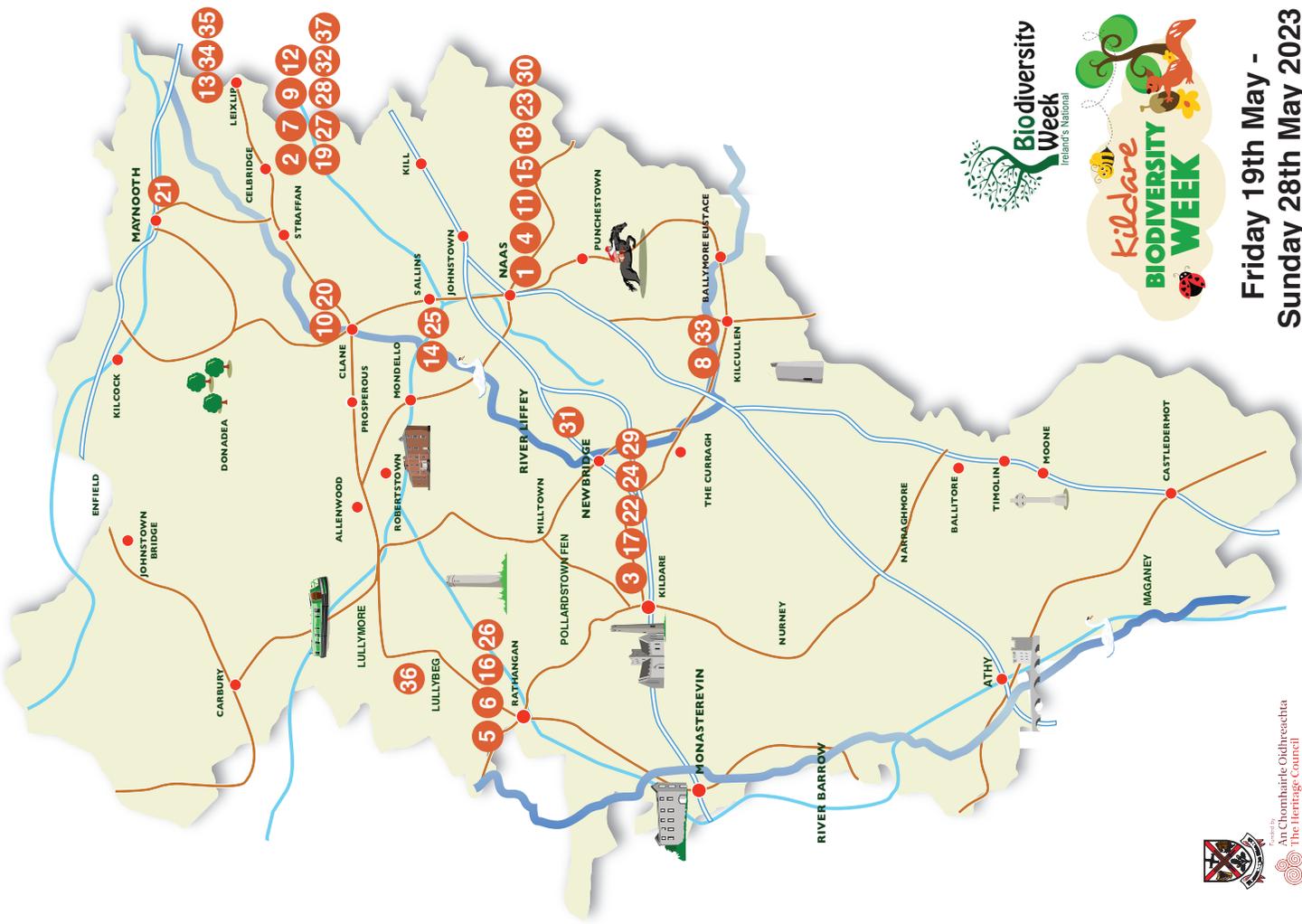
**Date:** Wednesday 24th May 2023

**Booking:** Please email [eileen.obrien@iwa.ie](mailto:eileen.obrien@iwa.ie)

**Parking:** Free parking & fully wheelchair accessible

Beth from Willow Wonder will run our Biodiversity Week Event in our Biodiversity garden at the John Sullivan (IWA) Resource Centre in Clane.

- Learn about different varieties of willow
- How to plant and harvest willow
- How to prepare for weaving
- Make & bring home your own willow creation

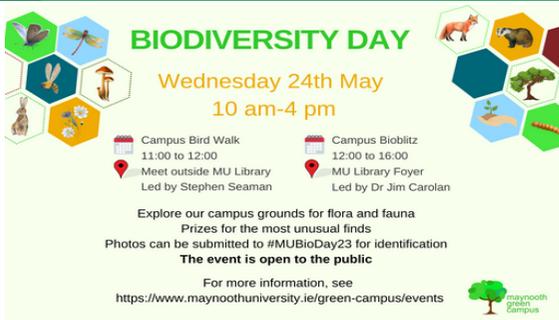


Friday 19th May -  
Sunday 28th May 2023



21

Wednesday 24th May  
Maynooth Green Campus Biodiversity Day



**BIODIVERSITY DAY**

Wednesday 24th May  
10 am-4 pm

 Campus Bird Walk 11:00 to 12:00 Meet outside MU Library Led by Stephen Seaman	 Campus Bioblitz 12:00 to 16:00 MU Library Foyer Led by Dr Jim Carolan
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Explore our campus grounds for flora and fauna  
Prizes for the most unusual finds  
Photos can be submitted to #MUBioDay23 for identification  
**The event is open to the public**

For more information, see  
<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/green-campus/events>



### Campus Bird Walk

**Time:** 11.00 - 12.00  
(check each event for actual time)

**Meeting Point:** Maynooth University Campus Library  
Led by Mr. Stephen Seaman. Event Open to the Public.

### Campus Bioblitz

**Time:** 12.00 - 16.00  
**Meeting Point:** MU Library Foyer

Explore our campus grounds for flora and fauna. Prizes for the most unusual finds.

### Maynooth Green Campus Photo Competition

Photos can be submitted to #MUBioDay23 or greencampus@mu.ie Prizes for the best images.

All events open to the Public.

For more information see: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/green-campus/events> Photos can be submitted to #MUBioDay23 or greencampus@mu.ie Prizes for the best images.



## National Biodiversity Data - FREE COURSES

Visit National Biodiversity Data centre website to access FIVE wonderful FREE courses!

- Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science:** Do you want to learn how to tell periwinkles from topshells and sort bladderwrack from furbelows? Do you want to discover how to survey biodiversity on rocky shores and beaches? Well now you can with our new Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science online course designed for the beginner or improver.
- Identifying Ireland's butterflies:** This course is suitable for those who are completely new to butterfly identification and those who want to brush up on their skills as another season of recording starts.
- Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme:** provides recorders with an opportunity to identify and record butterflies in their gardens.
- Identifying Ireland's Dragonflies and Damselflies:** The modules provide details of the identification features to look out for and a general introduction to the Dragonflies and Damselflies.
- How to Identify, Record and Monitor Common Irish Bumblebees:** learn (or revise) how to recognize the six most common bumblebee species found in Ireland.

# 22

Wednesday 24th May  
Children's Biodiversity Workshops  
at the Irish National Stud



**Time:** 12.00  
**Meeting place:** Irish National Stud Reception  
**Booking:** email [reservations@irishnationalstud.ie](mailto:reservations@irishnationalstud.ie)

The perfect day out for school tours and families to learn about Ireland's biodiversity from industry leading experts in a fun, hands-on practical way. Tickets also include a guided public tour and access to the Irish National Stud & Gardens. For more information or to book tickets please email [reservations@irishnationalstud.ie](mailto:reservations@irishnationalstud.ie)

***Please note this event must be booked in advance due to limited spaces.***

# 23

Thursday 25th May  
"Kildare's Wild Places":  
Kildare's Birds: with Paddy Sheridan



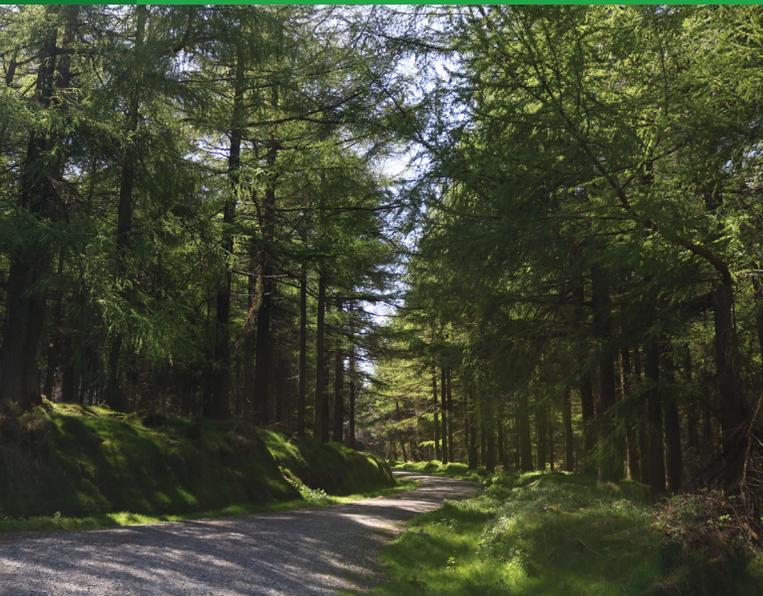
**Time:** 10.10  
**Location:** During Kildare Today on KFM

Listen to Paddy Sheridan (now RIP) of Wild Kildare introduce us to the world of birds in Kildare and describe recording programmes he was involved in supporting.

The K Documentary series: Kildare's Wild Places, is produced for Kfm by Juanita Browne, Crossing The Line Films.

# 24

Thursday 25th May  
Right Tree, Right Place  
with Diarmaid McAree



**Time:** 2.30  
**Meeting place:** Kildare Town Library, R51 P403

Diarmaid is a director of Crann, Trees for Ireland, a national organisation whose ethos is to promote and protect biodiversity and to safeguard our woodlands and hedgerows for the future. In this talk, he will outline the benefit of trees in the community with a Q&A afterwards. All are welcome to the Kildare Town Community Garden afterwards for refreshments.

# 25

Thursday 25th May  
Bat Walk with Kildare Bat Group Sallins



**Time:** 21.30  
**Meeting point:** Meet at Leinster Mills, Sallins  
**Booking:** Email [kildarebatgroup@gmail.com](mailto:kildarebatgroup@gmail.com)

Join Anna Collins from Kildare Bat Group to learn about the wonderful and weird world of Bats particularly Water Bats Daubentons.

***Please note this event must be booked in advance.***

26

Thursday 25th May  
Discover the World of Hedgehogs



**Time:** 19.30  
**Meeting point:** Tannery Park, Rathangan  
**Contact details:** Vanessa at 087 9258226  
or rathangan.tidy.towns@gmail.com

Join Kildare Wildlife Rescue to discover the world of hedgehogs. Family friendly. Outdoor event. Wheelchair accessible. Parking spaces available in front of the secondary school.

27

Thursday 25th May  
Dusk Chorus in Castletown House Estate



**Time:** 19.30  
**Meeting point:** Car park off the M4.  
Exit 6 (Celbridge West/Leixlip West  
Exit – R449, signposted for Castletown  
and Hewlett Packard)

Access by car is through the gates off Barnhall Road only. The gates at Main Street Celbridge are for pedestrian/bicycle access only.

# 28

Thursday 25th May

**Biodiversity Week: Back Garden  
Biodiversity for all the family**



**Time:** 15.30 - 16.30  
**Location:** Celbridge Library

An interactive workshop to help you do your bit to boost biodiversity with horticulturist Judith O'Connor. Learn how you can support and encourage more biodiversity into your garden. Plant flowers to take home and grow that will encourage more visitors to your space. Judith O'Connor has studied Organic Horticulture at the Organic College in Dromcolliher and ran the Kildare GIY group for many years.

This event aims to contribute towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

**Book your ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/celbridgecommunitylibrary/899435>**

# 29

Thursday 25th May

**Right Tree, Right Place – a Biodiversity  
Week Talk with Diarmaid McAree**



**Time:** 14.30  
**Location:** Naas Library- cancelled

Kildare Library is delighted to host a Community Garden Talk with Diarmaid McAree, director of Crann, Trees for Ireland, a national organisation whose ethos is to promote and protect biodiversity and to safeguard our woodlands and hedgerows for the future. In this talk, he will outline the benefit of trees in the community with a Q&A session afterwards.

*Funded by the County Kildare Community Heritage Grants scheme run by Kildare County Council.*

**All welcome to the library for the talk and to the Community Garden afterwards for refreshments.**

30

Friday 26th May

“Kildare’s Wild Places”: Bats:  
with Anna Collins & Kildare Bat Group



**Time:** 10.10  
**Location:** During Kildare Today on KFM

Did you know that Bats are mammals? Did you know that they are not blind? Did you know that in Ireland we have nine species confirmed as residents? If you are interested in hearing more interesting batty facts tune in to Kfm Kildare’s Wild Places documentary with Anna Collins fromm Kildare Bat group.

The K Documentary series: Kildare’s Wild Places, is produced for Kfm by Juanita Browne, Crossing The Line Films.

31

Friday 26th May

Walk and Explore the Curragh



**Time:** 19.00 - 21.30  
**Meeting place:** Cill Dara Golf Club  
**Booking:** Email [info@kildareheritage.com](mailto:info@kildareheritage.com)

Traditionally known as Brigid’s Pastures, The Curragh is unique in its natural and cultural heritage. Dr Mary O’Connor, an Ecological Consultant, will lead you on a walk on the Curragh where you will be introduced to its unique species-diverse and interesting flora and fauna. This event is brought to you in association with Kildare Town Tidy Towns.

# 32

Saturday 27th May  
Harry Potter Tree Trail



**Time:** 15.00  
**Location:** Castletown Parklands, Celbridge at 3pm  
**Booking:** Call Castletown House to book your place 01 6288252

Harry Potter inspired Tree Trail for children in the grounds of the Castletown Parklands. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Limited places.

***Please note this event must be booked in advance.***

# 33

Saturday 27th May  
What's in our River?



**Time:** 15.00 - 17.00  
**Meeting place:** Rear of Kilcullen Town Hall  
**Organiser:** Kilcullen Community Action

Presented by Dr Jan Barrs, a freshwater ecologist who lives in Castlemartin and works in the Zoology Department of UCD, and is organised by Kilcullen Community Action. Aimed at the younger and not so young members of our community to see first-hand what monsters live in our River.

**34**

Saturday 27th May  
Biodiversity Sketching Workshop



**Time:** 12.00 – 13.00  
**Location:** Leixlip Library

To celebrate National Biodiversity Week 2023, artist and illustrator Melissa Culhane will bring you on a sketching nature walk, starting at Leixlip Community Library. Suitable for all ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Book now:** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/leixliplibrary/900130>

**Time:** 13.30 – 14.30  
**Location:** Leixlip Library

To celebrate National Biodiversity Week, join artist and illustrator Melissa Culhane in our Sensory Garden for a nature sketching workshop. Suitable for all ages.

**Book now:** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/leixliplibrary/900144>

**35**

Saturday 27th May  
Enhance Your Garden for Biodiversity



**Time:** 15.30 - 16.30  
**Location:** Leixlip Library

Find out what you can achieve in your own back garden, whatever the size, by adding in native habitats that can help our native wildlife, biodiversity and pollinators. Suitable for ages 14+.

**Book now:** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/leixliplibrary/902077>

# 36

Saturday 27th May

Scrub clearing at Crabtree  
/Lullybeg Reserve, County Kildare



**Time:** 11.00

**Meeting Point:** Lullybeg (53.277, -6.9706)

Butterfly Conservation Ireland's reserve at Lullybeg has a wealth of nature to offer everyone. Blessed with an extraordinary range of habitats, the site boosts thriving populations of rare butterflies as well as the more frequent species, a high number of Ireland's dragonflies and some rare plants. This event will involve habitat creation for the Dingy Skipper, Dark Green Fritillary, Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet moth and other species. Bring work gloves, boots and loppers. **Directions:** This is reached from Allenwood by taking the R414 west and crossing Shee Bridge 1km from Allenwood on the left. Continue for 4 km and the Bog of Allen Nature Centre is on the right. Turn right here and continue for 100 metres to the T-junction. Turn left here along the track and continue. Pass through three gates. After the third gate, turn sharp left along the rough forest track for 500 metres. Supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (NPWS) and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2023.

# 37

Sunday 28th May

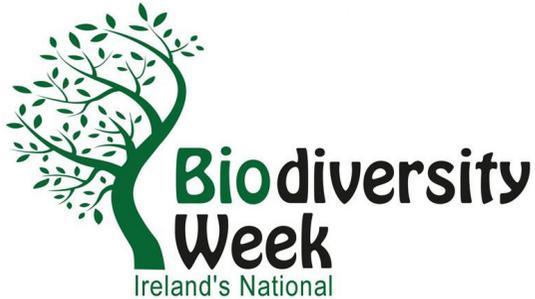
Castletown Parkland Walk



**Time:** 15.00

**Meeting point:** Castletown House, Celbridge

Enjoy a walk among the beautiful parklands of the Castletown Estate exploring its biodiversity. Visit the Ice House and listen to the story of the fascinating cave spiders who have made it their home. A video of how we manage the Castletown Parklands for wildlife will be on view every day in our stables at Castletown House.



## Biodiversity Photographer of the Year

**Are you a keen amateur photographer that loves to capture striking landscapes, migration spectacles, fabulous flora, or dramatic close-up images of birds, mammals and insects? Would you like to win up to €500 in cash prizes? Then this competition is for you.**

Nothing captures Ireland's beautiful natural environment better than a photograph, so as part of Ireland's Biodiversity Week 2023 the Irish Environmental network are hosting our 11th Annual Biodiversity Photographer of the Year competition.

The IEN '*Biodiversity Photographer of the Year*' competition is open to all amateur photographers. Whether you take photos as a hobby or it's your first

time out with a camera, all are welcome to enter. This year they are looking for photographs that celebrate Ireland's rich web of life. The challenge is to capture an image of some of the biodiversity in your area. Whether you live in the heart of the countryside or the centre of a city, there is wildlife to be found.

All photos must be taken in the month of May 2023, and must be submitted by midnight on the 31st May 2023. A maximum of 5 entries per participant will be accepted. The winner will be determined by a judging panel whose decision is final. The winner will receive €500, with second place receiving €300 and third place €200.

***Details found here: Biodiversity Photographer of the Year - National Biodiversity Week***



# TAKE PART IN THE IEN BACKYARD BIOBLITZ 26th – 28th May 2023

Wondering what that plant is? Who that insect is visiting your flowers? Maybe you've seen an unknown bird at your feeder, or strange creatures at your local waterway or park. Explore your local area to discover fabulous flora and fauna! Our ecologists and wildlife experts will identify it for you!

## Ask Our Experts

Ask our ecologists and experts to identify what you've found! They will be on hand to ID your finds throughout the weekend. Simply share your photo on Twitter or Instagram with **#BackyardBioblitz**, and tag us on Twitter **@IrishEnvNet** or Instagram **@national.biodiversity.week**

## Bonus Prize!

As a bonus to the weekend, we are giving away an identification swatch from the National Biodiversity Data Centre. All usernames who tag us over the weekend on Twitter or Instagram will be entered into a draw. Two winners will win a swatch of their choice!

**For more Information:**  
**Backyard Bioblitz - National Biodiversity Week**



## National Biodiversity Data

The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and information more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of Ireland's biodiversity.

The main role of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, as set out in its constitution is, to acquire, collate, manage, validate and make available, data in respect of Ireland's biodiversity in order to document wildlife resources and monitor and record changes over time and in so doing, support national initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including the recording of species and habitat information relating to the terrestrial, freshwater, marine, rivers and wetland environments.





## STEAM 2023 in County Kildare

### *Discover, Explore, Learn at your Local Library*

This programme aims to create an environment to explore, test, engage, inspire and increase the uptake of science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) subjects.

Kildare Library Service are conscious that STEAM subjects are at the heart of a very wide variety of professions and will be the skills that future generations will need to acquire to take part in building the world of our future. These events have been organised by Kildare Library



Service with the support of other organisations such as the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), North Kildare Beekeepers Association, Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC), Irish Wildlife Trust and The National Roads Design Office.

By encouraging parents and teachers to bring children to visit the library this programme raises an awareness of what the modern public library service has to offer them. The library is seen as a fun and welcoming place to visit where young people can avail of the opportunity to try new things and get involved in their local community. These demonstrations and workshops are free of charge for primary schools and can be booked by contacting your local library.

To be informed of these and other events at your local library join the mailing list at [www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library) or if you would like to hear about school events specifically please contact your local branch and ask to join the school mailing list.

# STEAM EVENTS 2023

## Biodiversity Art Workshop

In this workshop, children will learn, by watching a demonstration, how to make their own paper seed mats. Children will learn all about natural dyes and where they come from. Then using some pre-made seed mats and natural dyes provided, the children will turn their seed mats into unique paintings which can be placed outside and watered.

As the paintings fade back in the soil it will soon be replaced by a swath of wildflowers.

<i>Maynooth Library</i>	<i>Monday 22nd May</i>	<i>10.00am</i>
<i>Leixlip Library</i>	<i>Monday 22nd May</i>	<i>13.00pm</i>
<i>Celbridge Library</i>	<i>Tuesday 23rd May</i>	<i>10.00am</i>
<i>Naas Library</i>	<i>Tuesday 23rd May</i>	<i>13.00pm</i>
<i>Athy Library</i>	<i>Wednesday 24th May</i>	<i>10.00am</i>
<i>Newbridge Library</i>	<i>Thursday 25th May</i>	<i>10.00am</i>
<i>Kildare Town Library</i>	<i>Thursday 25th May</i>	<i>13.00pm</i>





An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Tithíocht Aintíne agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

Funded by  
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The Heritage Council

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[www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/Heritage](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/Heritage)

 County Kildare Heritage Officer

 Kildare Heritage

 Kildare Heritage