

Belfast Naturalists'
Field Club

Field Reports

2024

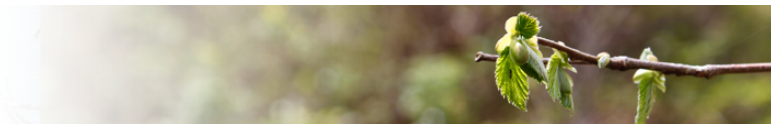




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The proposed trip to St John's Point and Kilclief on 3rd August was cancelled due to weather conditions.



AGM and tour of Botanic Gardens

Saturday 13th April

The AGM this year sees yet another break with tradition as it has been moved to a Saturday morning in the Grainger Room in the Ulster Museum. Following the short AGM business a visit to the *Botanic Gardens* had been planned.



The Palm House

The morning session included a talk and tour of the gardens conducted by a member of the Botanic Gardens staff. We are very fortunate to have a Botanic Garden in Belfast yet for many people the gardens are merely a pleasant green space in the city with an iconic *Palm House* and *Tropical Ravine* to shelter in on cold wet days. But Belfast Botanic Gardens is much more than that.

A Green Flag is awarded annually

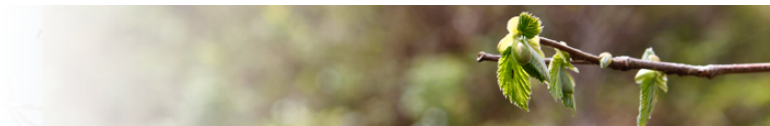
to the best open spaces in the UK and Belfast Botanic Gardens has received this accolade each year since 2011. In addition it also received a *Green Flag Heritage Award* in 2022. This special award is presented to sites which make the most of their unique heritage features. We had an opportunity to hear about the garden's heritage and the development of its tree collection.



An exciting and interesting new development is the *Global Medicine Garden*. Thanks to the vision and hard work of the *Friends of Belfast Botanical Gardens* this project which started in 2019 is now established. The aim was to reflect the collection of medicinal herbs which had a feature of the Victorian Botanical Gardens. To date, around 80 species (some 200 plants), all with medicinal associations and from around the globe have been planted. I like to think that many of these plants would have been familiar to naturalists like *Theophrastus*, *Dioscorides*, Pliny, *Sir Hans Sloane* and *Carl Linnaeus*.



The Tropical Ravine



Life on the Edge - Lifford

Saturday 27th April

Leaders - Barrie Hartwell and Ian Enlander.

Joint *Belfast Naturalists' Field Club* and *Belfast Geologists' Society*

The geology and relict landscape of Lifford.

Ian Enlander provided a geological focus on the *Lifford karst* which has developed within a large outcrop/sub-outcrop of *Ulster White Limestone (Cretaceous chalk)* - karst features including a doline field, a series of sinks and resurgences and a dry valley. This is an active karst system but some features are best explained by peri-/late glacial processes which also account for much of the mass movement features to be seen in the wider area. Although some of these features (dolines especially) have been viewed as man-made eg. flint mines – they are best explained as natural features.



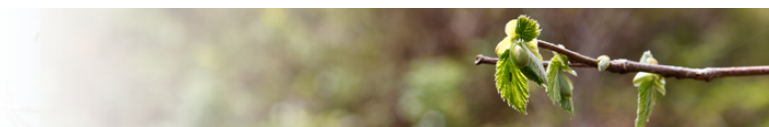
From Lifford standing stone looking west – 'lazy beds', dolines and dry valley

The car park at Lifford provided a magnificent panorama from *Scawt Hill* in *Dunteege townland* south across *Drains Bog* to the imposing promontory of *Knockdhu* in *Ballyhackett td* with its Late Bronze Age ramparts (excavated by the Time Team). In the distance, *Ballygalley Head* juts into the sea with its Neolithic occupation and flint mine, Bronze Age burial and multivallate rath. The opening of the coast road gave better access to the area and a small cluster of farm buildings in *Carnfunnock td* was developed by *William Chaine* into *Carncastle Lodge* - a substantial

country estate with big house, walled garden, farmyard, planted driveways and gate lodges. Adjacent to the *Carncastle Lodge*, another country estate was developed from 1878 as a holiday home by Scottish textile magnate *Stewart Clark* with a larger house, more intensive planting, walled garden, gate lodges and a gasometer. This is *Cairndhu* which was bought by *Sir Thomas and Lady Edith Dixon* for £8000 in 1918. Edith was Clark's daughter. In 1939 they gave over the house to become a war hospital and in 1947 donated it to the Government for a hospital. It was abandoned in 1986 and is now derelict and the grounds are *Cairndhu Golf Club*.

On the edge of the *Ballygalley* village, a Neolithic settlement was excavated showing links to Scotland. *Ballygalley Castle* was built in 1625 by *James Shaw* of Scotland in Scottish baronial style enclosed in a bawn with four turrets. The bay provided shelter and the beach a landing point and before the Coast Road was constructed this was an important point of entry. Trackways led from here west into the uplands via *Drains Bog*, below the car park, and *Lifford* behind it.

contd



Life on the Edge - Linford (contd)

Braided trackways could clearly be seen on both sides of the Drains Bog climbing diagonally up the slope at the head of the valley and running over the crest into the interior, especially clear on the south side. These predate the Feystown Road which was built after 1857. These trackways also facilitated the seasonal movement of cattle from the arable lower lands onto the 'sweet' chalkland pastures of Linford.



Linford earthworks and doline field

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An aerial high-definition Lidar survey was able to penetrate vegetation and distinguish height differences of 0.1-0.2m. It identified 167 potential hut sites in these townlands (upwards of a hundred within Knockdhu), 40 enclosures, 33 structures 25 quarries and 15 house sites. Most of the internal hut widths were 2.1-2.9m and many more between 3-6m. These were difficult to see on the ground but bear witness to the intensity of past occupation, especially in the

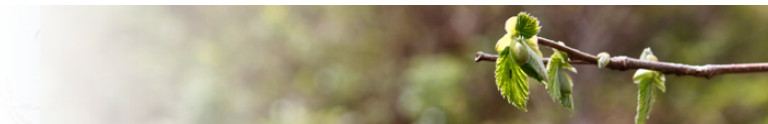
Bronze Age when the climate was warmer and drier, and in the post-Medieval period when many of the structures in Drains Bog could be

interpreted as seasonal booley (herders') huts. The two small circular enclosures characterised by deep internal ditches and steep outer banks sit on the skyline at the eastern end of Linford td. and can be seen from the shore at Ballygalley. Their date and purpose remain enigmatic and the only investigation, by coring the ditch fill, gave a Medieval date to a layer above the original base. They are therefore earlier, possibly Bronze Age barrows. Other linear features are similarly enigmatic and ultimately only excavation may provide the answers.

It is just possible that the dolines allowed access to flint exposures but a stronger case can be made a little further east where there was more obvious removal of a flint bed from an exposed face. Ian expounded a complex theory of flint formation which provided the material so essential to prehistoric life.

The 1833 map shows two houses in Linford td – one on the western edge, the other towards the east. The 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" maps shows a rectangular enclosure around the easterly one but by 1903, although the boundary had been extended, the house was abandoned. However, the 1851 Census lists three families: *McRannel (4)*, *Gardner (5)* and *O'Hara (5)*. Each have young children including a babe-in-arms. It is possible that the Ordnance Survey mappers only recorded stone structures here and that one house could have been turf. This easterly enclosure was investigated and very pronounced cultivation ridges occur alongside ones which have been dismantled – presumably only part of the potato crop was harvested – did the remainder fall foul of blight?

contd



Life on the Edge - Linford (contd)

The 1901 Census lists only one family – the *Steens* (2 parents 2 daughters and a son) who were still in Linford in 1911, presumably in the western house.

After lunch at the car park, the party moved across the road to examine an elevated, much-damaged circular feature which presents itself as a small cashel although there is no evidence of facing stones to the wall. It is equally possible that this could be the remains of a megalithic tomb, robbed of stone for the road or the townland boundary which runs alongside it. As a 'cashel' it would command the flat-bottomed trackway which runs below it. The width of the track is too narrow for a wheeled cart but could take a *slípe* (sled). The elevated position provided a clearer view of the coastline and the interior enabling it to see and be seen for many kilometres.

Our last stop was a 'standing stone' to the west. This was probably a glacial erratic which has been 'upended'. The purpose of these stones is unknown but could be focal points in the landscape, meeting points, territorial markers or sites of burials (though it is difficult to determine which would have come first). Looking east, the *Dunteige* wedge tomb could be seen on a low rise in the middle distance.



Outcrop of chalk with flints on edge of dry valley



Rostrevor Oakwood and National Nature Reserve

Saturday 18th May

Botany leader - Graham Day



We are most grateful to Graham Day - Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland vice-county recorder for Co. Down – for leading us on a most interesting walk in *Kilbroney Forest Park* and *Rostrevor Oakwood National Nature Reserve*. We met at 11.00am at the forestry buildings near the entrance to Kilbroney Forest Park (*grid reference J18491773*) and spent a substantial amount of time recording there, before following the track through the woodland to *Fiddler's Green* where we had lunch in a clearing by the junction of the oak wood with the forestry. The mature oak woodland covers about 16 hectares on a steep west-facing slope overlooking *Carlingford Lough*. Such woodlands are rare in Northern Ireland and at Rostrevor the wood, though natural in form, is possibly the product of regeneration after extensive felling during the late 1730s.

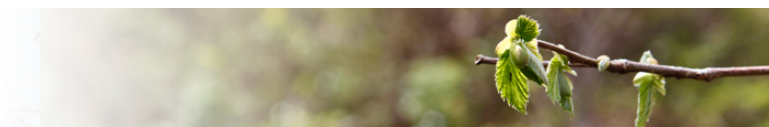


Graham Day

A total of 163 plant taxa were recorded, a list of which follows:



Taxon	Vernacular
<i>Acaena ovalifolia</i>	Two-spined Acaena
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Garden Lady's-mantle
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Garlic
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Aphanes australis</i>	Slender Parsley-piert
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Thale Cress
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue
<i>Asplenium trichomanes subsp. quadrivalens</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	Spotted-laurel
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard-fern
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote Sedge
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood-sedge



Rostrevor Oakwood and National Nature Reserve (contd)



(*Sanicula europea*) Sanicle

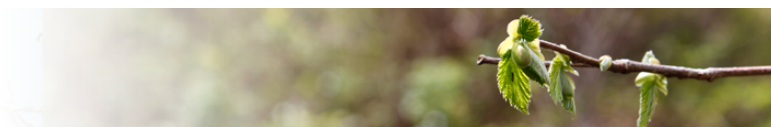


(*Oxalis acetosella*) Wood-sorrel



(*Acaena ovalifolia*) Two-spined Acaena

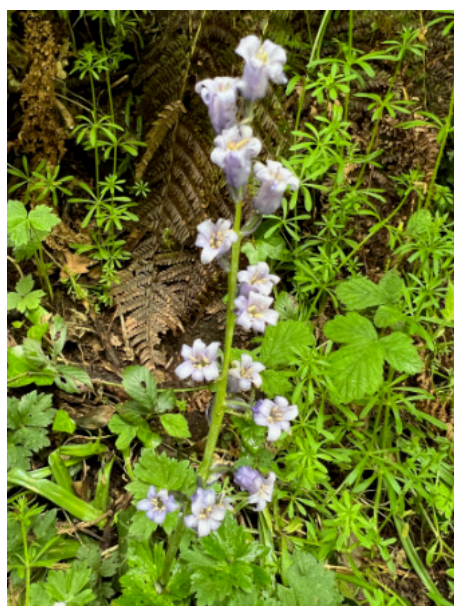
Taxon	Vernacular
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	Hollyberry Cotoneaster
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard
<i>Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	Montbretia (<i>C. aurea</i> x <i>pottsii</i>)
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Japanese Red-cedar
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> subsp. <i>affinis</i>	
<i>Dryopteris borrieri</i>	Scaly Male-fern
<i>Dryopteris cambrensis</i>	Scaly Male-fern
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American Willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	Short-fruited Willowherb
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary Willowherb
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail
<i>Erophila verna</i> var. <i>verna</i> sensu	
<i>Filifan+Elkington</i>	
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Ficaria verna</i> subsp. <i>fertilis</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Ficaria verna</i> subsp. <i>verna</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	Fuchsia
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	Hybrid Bluebell
	(<i>H. non-scripta</i> x <i>hispanica</i>)
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan



Rostrevor Oakwood and National Nature Reserve (contd)

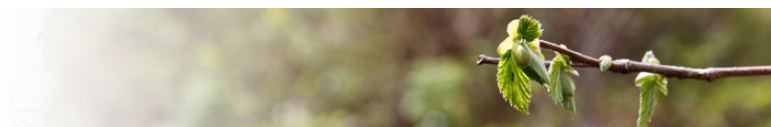


(*Umbilicus rupestris*) Navelwort



(*Hyacinthoides x massartiana*)
Hybrid Bluebell

Taxon	Vernacular
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	Bristle Club-rush
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch
<i>Larix x marschlinsii</i>	Hybrid Larch (<i>L. decidua</i> x <i>kaempferi</i>)
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter-vetch
<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Himalayan Honeysuckle
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Luma apiculata</i>	Chilean Myrtle
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	Hairy Wood-rush
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great Wood-rush
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Three-nerved Sandwort
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Oenothera</i> agg.	Evening Primrose
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel
<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Himalayan Knotweed
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka Spruce
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Polypody
<i>Polypodium vulgare sens. lat.</i>	Polypody
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup



Rostrevor Oakwood and National Nature Reserve (contd)

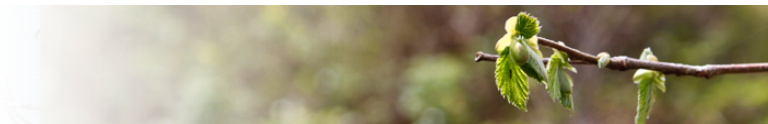


(*Ajuga reptans*) Bugle



(*Blechnum spicant*) Hard-fern

Taxon	Vernacular
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Flowering Currant
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i> var. <i>viridis</i>	Wood Dock
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle
<i>Sasa palmata</i>	Broad-leaved Bamboo
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Bog Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Western Hemlock-spruce
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Ulmus</i> agg.	Elm
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort
<i>Urtica dioica</i> subsp. <i>dioica</i>	
<i>Valerianella carinata</i>	Keeled-fruited Cornsalad
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i> subsp. <i>hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i> subsp. <i>serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet



Colin Glen

Tuesday 21st May

Leader - Judy Meharg

The lore of woodland plants and trees

Judy Meharg, Conservation Officer with *Belfast Hills Partnership*, took the group up through the beautiful woodland at Colin Glen in West Belfast.

Colin Glen Trust, who own the site, allowed us special access after closing time so we had the place to ourselves. There was a good turn out of approx. 20 participants and the circular walk took 2 hours. As we headed up into the park Judy explained how important and revered trees were to our descendants and how we had fallen out of love and respect for them for many years only now to have regained that respect as we acknowledge their importance for tackling Climate Change.

As we progressed up through the woodland Judy stopped to help us identify trees and tell us interesting folklore, uses and stories about each species. We learned that the *Ogham* alphabet was the first form of writing in Ireland and each letter was based on a different tree. In Early Christian times trees were ranked in order of their importance - the Oak was the King of the Woods due to its many uses such as timber for barrels, ships, its bark for tanning leather, its galls for ink and acorns for feeding pigs. Ash was the Queen of the Woods and ash sticks were used to ward off charms and protect against evil.

Many of the different trees had particular associations with the wee folk, witches and superstition such as *Fairy Thorn* trees which brought bad luck to anyone who dug them up, Elder bushes which were associated with witches and whose hollow twigs were favoured by the fairies for whistles and pipes.

We also learnt some useful cures such as the charcoal from Willows could bring back hair on a bald pate or Elm could help with impotency if one carved the man's name on an Elm stick and beat him with it!

Judy told us that Belfast Hills Partnership had recently developed a tree nursery and were looking at increasing the area's woodland cover by planting thousands of native trees every year. They were particularly interested in creating *Nature Recovery Networks* where existing woodlands were linked up through new woodland planting.



Entrance to Colin Glen



Judy Meharg (R) Conservation Officer
Belfast Hills Partnership



Kilbroney and Rostrevor Area

Saturday 1st June

Leaders - Mike King, Bill Reilly, John McCavitt and Paul Clerkin

History/archaeology and dendrology



Mike King beside the granite high cross

The group met at *Kilbroney Churchyard* at 10am, with about 20 members in attendance. We visited the graveyard (Kilbroney being the 'church of Bronagh') where St Bronagh is said to have been buried. Mike spoke about the 8th-century unringed Mourne granite high cross (one of the earliest high crosses in Ireland), the medieval church (saved from collapse about 15 years ago) and a granite face-cross. Local experts *Paul Clerkin* and *Bill Reilly* informed us about the giant's grave and the holy well, said to cure throat and eye ailments. There were fine views from there down the valley towards Rostrevor.

Next stop was *St Mary Star of the Sea Church* in Rostrevor, a Roman Catholic church founded in 1848 and finished in 1850, replacing a small mass house of the 1770s. We viewed the bronze bell of St Bronagh, dating to about 900 AD - discovered in the middle of the 19th century inside an old tree blown down in a storm in Kilbroney graveyard. Following this, we visited *Kilbroney Church of Ireland Church* in Rostrevor (built in 1821) in the company of *John McCavitt*, who informed us about the monument in the church to *Major-General Robert Ross*, born in Rostrevor in 1766. Ross served with distinction in the Peninsular War, and later in North America, where he led his troops into Washington DC in August 1814, but was subsequently shot and killed on 12th September 1814 in an attack on Baltimore.

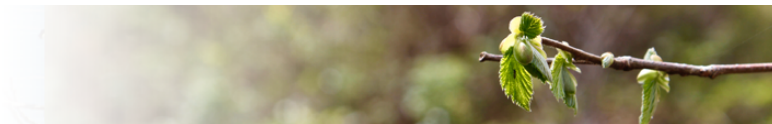


BNFC members beside Holm Oak

After lunch in the Rostrevor Inn, the group was treated to a tour of the trees in Kilbroney Park by Paul Clerkin. Kilbroney Park has about 25 notable trees, including a Great Beech, ancient Oaks, Sycamore, Larch, Cedar, Yew, Redwood, Fir, Cypress, Pine, Ash, Lime and Giant Sequoia, all mapped and documented in Paul's excellent '*Trees of Kilbroney Park*' publication (2018). The Sessile Oak could be 500 years old, many others are between 100 and 200 years old.

Next we visited the *Ross Monument*, a 100-foot high granite obelisk, near the shore of Carlingford Lough.

contd



Kilbroney and Rostrevor area (contd)



Ross monument obelisk

John McCavitt explained the inscriptions and decorative features of the obelisk, erected in 1826 in honour of Major-General Ross, killed at Baltimore in 1814 shortly after his victory at Bladensburg and capture of Washington DC. Finally the group headed to *Narrow Water Castle*, a 16th-century tower house and bawn, strategically located on a promontory in the Newry River, to control river traffic.

Bill Reilly informed us that it was built in the 1560s at a cost of £361 for an English garrison, being in the hands of the Gaelic Magennis family by the end of the century. There was a wall-walk behind the stepped battlements, commanding extensive views; the roof was restored in the 1960s. A small boat quay served the castle on the west side. Bill also told us about the ancient river crossing here, its uses at various times in history and the old road that led to Downpatrick from this point.

Having thanked our three expert guides for their time, we ended the tour and dispersed at around 5.30pm.

Report compiled by M. King



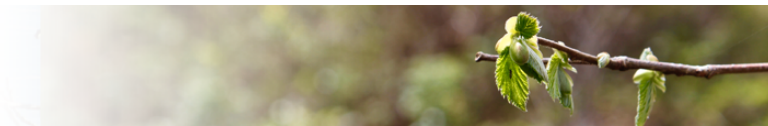
Granite Face Cross, Kilbroney churchyard



Ross memorial inside Church of Ireland



Turkey Oak



Causeway Coast

11th to 14th June

Joint BNFC and DNFC Long Field Trip

Before Covid in alternate years, a long field trip was held with *Dublin Naturalists' Field Club* (DNFC) with each club taking turns to plan and organise. It would have been BNFC's turn to organise it in 2021 but when hotels were still not open, the plans were abandoned. After consultation with our sister club, we decided we would organise a long field trip for June 2024. The North Antrim coast was selected as the venue with the *Marine Hotel Ballycastle* being our base. This enabled easy access to the Rathlin ferry with the island being a highlight of the trip.

The venue proved to be very popular with both the 29 members of the DNFC and the 15 BNFC members, the majority of whom stayed in the Marine hotel while others found local accommodation in the local area.



Ballycastle Beach looking towards Fair Head

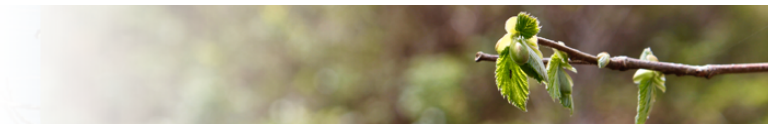


Exposed cliff face used by Michael Dempster to illustrate the geology at one of the mine sites

Tuesday 11th

Although the first afternoon was bright and clear a brisk northerly wind kept the temperature below the June average. However, the good visibility enabled us to appreciate the views of *Rathlin* and *Fair Head* on our walk from the hotel to *Colliers Bay*. Our guide was **Dr Michael Dempster** from NIEA and he explained how the geology of the area enabled the development of local industry in the 18th century. A carboniferous strata in the rocks of the area contained several layers of coal and this strata could be most easily accessed between on the sea cliff to the east of *Ballycastle*. We stopped at the site of one of the mines and the exposed cliff face was used by Michael to illustrate the geological features. On the shoreside of the road a mine adit was visible. Michael used his involvement in Biodiversity Conservation to instruct us in the fundamental importance of geology in biodiversity conservation.

Col. Hugh Boyd's development of the coal industry from 1736 onwards enabled the development of other industries in Ballycastle. There was a glass factory, a tannery and a brewery, all fuelled by local coal. The export of coal to Scotland led to the building of a harbour in 1748 and Ballycastle became an eighteenth-century industrial hub. Later that evening Michael gave us a talk in the hotel about the geology of the North Antrim coast.



Causeway Coast (contd)

Joint BNFC and DNFC Long Field Trip

Wednesday 12th

The group assembled at 9.30 for the 10.00 ferry to Rathlin. The crossing was relatively smooth if somewhat chilly and the pre-booked buses to the West Lighthouse were waiting at the harbour. The visit to the RSPB centre with its views of the cliffs thronging with nesting seabirds was spectacular.

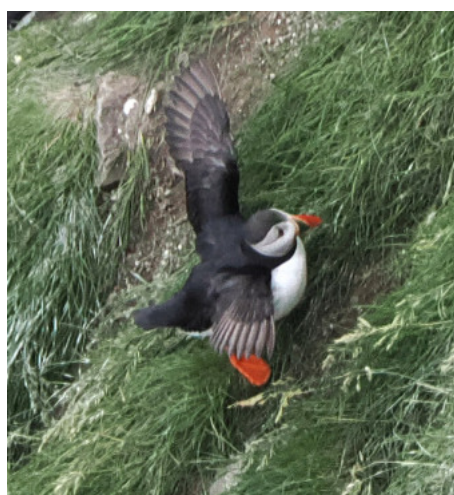
Spotting scopes on the viewing platform enabled us to obtain a closeup view of the guillemots, fulmars and razorbills on the cliffs. For most people the sight of puffins at their nesting burrows on the grassy area at the foot of the cliffs was the icing on the cake. The buses were waiting to return us to Church Bay but some of the party decided to walk back and botanise on the way. The rest of the day was free to pursue the diverse interests



On the Rathlin Ferry

of the group. This included spotting the seals in Mill Bay, visiting the exhibition about island life in the Boathouse Visitors Centre and following one of the nature trails. There was great excitement when it was discovered that corncrakes could be heard calling in a field quite near Church Bay. It required some patience to spend time waiting for the elusive call but the reward of hearing it made the wait worthwhile. Everyone reassembled at the harbour for the 5.00 pm ferry back to Ballycastle grateful for the good weather and the unspoilt natural habitats of Rathlin.

A visit to Morton's Fish and Chip shop was the meal choice of many members before we met back at the hotel for a talk about the Prehistoric sites of North Antrim by **Nicholas Wright** from the *Causeway and Glens Museum Service*.



Puffin



Fulmars



Causeway Coast (contd)

Joint BNFC and DNFC Long Field Trip



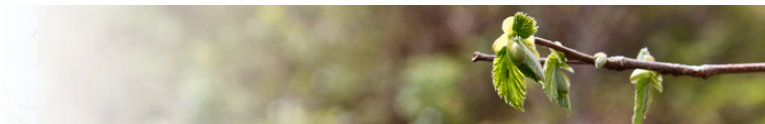
View from Rathlin towards the mainland



Seabird colony at West Light



Grey seals



Causeway Coast (contd)

Joint BNFC and DNFC Long Field Trip

Thursday 13th

After the lovely weather on the previous day it was disappointing to experience heavy rain for our visits to *Whitepark Bay* and the *Giants Causeway*. We were joined by **Dr Mike Simms** from the Ulster Museum who shared his vast knowledge of all things geological on the North Coast. Our first stop was *Whitepark Bay* where we were met by *National Trust* Wardens and despite the heavy rain we set off on a botanical expedition. For many members the highlight of the morning was seeing the rather elusive *Frog orchid*. While some keen botanists continued with their plant recording others made their way down to the beach where Mike helped them to identify a variety of stones which came, not only from local rock formations, but from further afield including *Ailsa Craig*.



Frog Orchid

The car park at the planned venue was the location for our picnic lunch but we didn't linger before continuing to the *Giant's Causeway*. Fortunately, the rain had abated by then and we were able to enjoy our visit. We were fortunate to have Mike Simms with us as he has conducted groundbreaking geological studies of the site.

A planned visit to *Ballintoy Harbour* was not possible as the coach could not access it and the walk down to the harbour by the steep winding road would have been too dangerous because of the number of cars using it. However, Mike had plan B ready and we stopped outside Ballintoy village to view the site of a new pumping station. This was a project that had been given planning permission without a geological input. When the work started and a sink hole was uncovered, Mike's geological expertise was called for.

He explained to us why holes were opening up in the ground and underlined the necessity of geological surveys.

Mike Simms at the Giants Causeway

The day ended with a conference dinner in the *Marine Hotel*.





Causeway Coast (contd)

Joint BNFC and DNFC Long Field Trip

Friday 14th



Inside Bonamargy Friary with Holestone

This was our final morning and heavy rain almost led to the cancellation of the visit to *Bonamargy Friary*. Some members of the party opted to set off on their homeward journey but about 20 people braved the elements to walk the short distance to the Friary which had been founded in 1500 and had been in use until the mid 17th century. Fortunately the rain eased and the ruins of the friary enabling a leisurely exploration of the site.

The first survey of the site was by *F.J. Biggar* and *W.J. Fennell*, both members of BNFC which was published in a special edition of *The Ulster Journal of Archaeology* in 1898. In 1904 *W.J. Fennell* who was president of the club at the time, led a conducted tour of the site. The ruins were restored by *The Ministry of Finance* for the *Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society* in 1931 and during that time Bonamargy was again visited by BNFC and the Proceedings for the outing reports -

'When completed, Bonamargy Abby will be an archaeological asset to the Northern Government'.



At the entrance to Ballycastle

Thanks goes to all the participants who accepted the inclement weather with such good grace. I also wish to thank our guest experts **Michael Dempster**, **Nicholas Wright** and **Mike Simms** for their contribution which added so much to our appreciation and understanding of the North Antrim Coast.

A special thanks is owed to **Ann Feltham** whose meticulous planning made the trip to Rathlin such a success.

Joan Semple



Murlough National Nature Reserve

Saturday 22nd June

Leader: Jen Farrar (BSBI Botanical Skills Officer NI)



Viper's Bugloss in the foreground
Photo; by permission of Graham Mounsey

Botany

Over fifteen BNFC members met with Jen in the main National Trust carpark at Murlough. Jen was to have co-led the field trip with the retired NT warden for the site, Jo Whatmough, also her mother, but Jo was convalescing after an unexpected operation. The weather was more April than June, being cold and windy, though, thankfully, it did not rain.

Jen led us through old, maturing and young dunes towards the beach. As is the norm for botany outings, no sooner had we stopped for one plant than many others were spotted meaning progress was slow. We benefited from having several skilled botanists among our number, as well as Jen. However,

she excelled in showing us what could otherwise be overlooked features, pushing away other vegetation to show the downy leaves of the Catsear (*Hypochaeris radicata*).

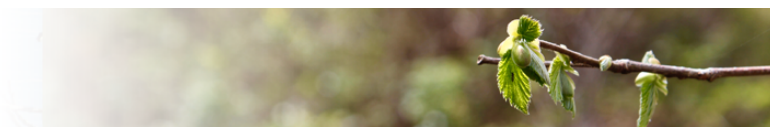
For many the stand of Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) was a highlight, though the much smaller and less showy Red Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*) was prized by those who saw it as maybe a first sighting in Co Down. Thanks go to Ernie Hunter for compiling it with additions from Roy Anderson. All in all an excellent day with the group expressing gratitude to Jen.

A full list of the plants follow.

Ann Feltham



Lunch break at Murlough

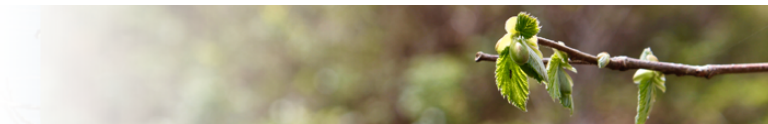


Murlough National Nature Reserve species list



Consulting the field guides

Taxon	Vernacular
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand Spurrey
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Red Sand Spurrey
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Crassula tillaea</i>	Mossy Stonecrop
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's Wort
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum maritimus</i>	Sea Radish
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop
<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Burnet Rose
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Rest-harrow
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Oenothera</i>	Evening Primrose
<i>Euphorbia portlandica</i>	Portland Spurge
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill
<i>Centaurea erythraea</i>	Common Centaury
<i>Myosotis ramossissima</i>	Early Forgetmenot
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage
<i>Euphrasia</i>	Eyebright
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn Plantain
<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheepsbit
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devilsbit Scabious
<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>	Heath Groundsel
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina Thistle
<i>Arctium</i>	Burdock
<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Catsear
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawksbeard
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad Rush
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Lyme Grass
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	Sand Sedge
<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>	Sand Couch
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody



Duneight Motte and Drumbo

Saturday 6th July

Leader: Mike King

History and Archaeology

This evening field trip started at 6.30pm at *Duneight motte*. The site now takes the form of an Anglo-Norman motte-and-bailey castle, but is of interest in that it is constructed on an Early Christian fort, *Dún Echdach*, claimed as being named after Eochaid, King of the Dál Fiatach from 789 to 810. Mike led a tour around the site pointing out the features that had been excavated.

The fort entered history in the early 11th century when it was attacked and is said then to have had a 'dun' and an outer 'baile', prefiguring the same design of Anglo-Norman mottes in Ireland from the late 12th century onwards. The central motte was quite high, with steep sides, and commanded good views up and down the *River Ravernet* from the top.

We next visited the round tower at *Drumbo*, 'the ridge of the cow', the site of an early Irish monastery, where two saints, *Lugbe* and *Cummine*, were commemorated in the early 9th century. No original church remains survive today, but behind the present Presbyterian church we examined a round tower, probably dating to the 11th century, now about 10.7m high, but originally perhaps 25m in height. The doorway, now 1.5m above ground, would have been higher off the ground, and reached by a ladder, but the ground level has risen over the centuries as a result of the creation of hundreds of graves around it. We noted the graves of early Presbyterian ministers going back to the 17th century, and one of an author who died when the *Lusitania* was sunk on 7th May 1915.

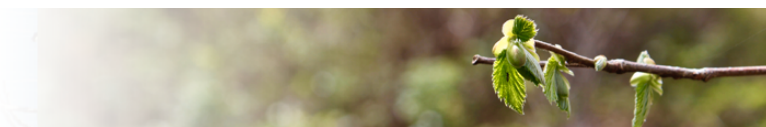
There was an extensive panorama visible from this site over the Lagan Valley and Belfast, and we were able to make out the *Giant's Ring* to the north. The group dispersed at about 8.30pm.

Report compiled by M.King



Round tower at Drumbo





Mourne Park

Saturday 27th July

Joint with Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland



Comma (Photo Ivan Quail)

Mourne Park estate is quite varied, with a presumably artificial but long established lake, mixed woodland, presumably largely planted originally but with plenty of the commoner native specie. Knockcree Hill above provides heath and rocky ground. No exhaustive survey has done as far as I am aware, but among butterflies the following of note have been seen : Comma; Silver-washed Fritillary; Holly Blue; Wall Brown (the latter probably extinct in Northern Ireland). Dark Green Fritillary and Small Heath have occurred near the top of Knockcree Hill above Mourne Park; potentially 20 or so species might be recorded from the area eventually.

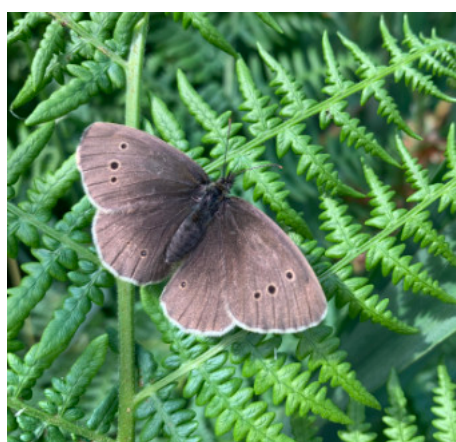
The site was chosen for the visit because of the possibility of seeing the Comma butterfly (*Polygonia c-album*) which has been seen here more times (7 occasions in 3 separate years) than at any known site in Northern Ireland.



Silver-washed Fritillary
(Photo Alastair McIlwain)

The Comma, so called because of the small whitish comma shaped mark on the hindwing underside, has only colonised Ireland in the 21st century, though there were a small handful of records of single individuals previously. Breeding was only proved (in Cos. Wexford and Carlow) from 2014 but it has spread steadily from the SE and now has been recorded in nearly all Irish counties, except a very few in the west and north.

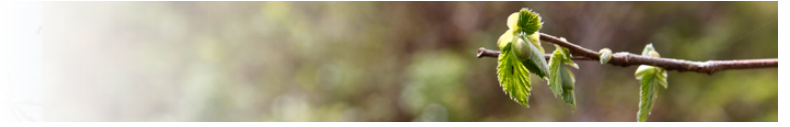
In Northern Ireland, though breeding has yet to be confirmed, over 60 have been recorded over the years (almost annually from 2012) and with at least 16 seen in 2023 (also the first time more than one was seen at a time) it is suspected of having bred, especially as it appeared in the Rostrevor/Kilkeel area in spring, summer and autumn, presumably representing the different broods. Like its close relatives the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock, the Comma overwinters as an adult, emerging from March to May, mating and laying eggs on nettle plants (though Comma has been known to use Elm and other trees, and formerly in England, Hops). Their progeny emerge in June or July and some early emerging individuals are paler in colour with less indented wings, these are known as "*hutchinsoni*" (named after an *Anne Hutchinson* who first described this form). They mate and hopefully produce another generation, which go into hibernation to emerge and mate in the spring of the next year. Slower emerging individuals are a darker colour and have more indented wings. They tend to nectar on plants favoured by its relatives e.g. Bramble flowers, Thistles, Ragwort, Knapweed, Buddleja, and Ivy Blossom.



Ringlet (Photo Alastair McIlwain)

On this day the weather was initially against us, but then improved, and we saw among others a Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*), Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), Elephant moth caterpillar (*Deilephila elpenor*), Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*) and finally the object of the visit, two Comma butterflies, very lively in the sunshine.

Text condensed from Ian Rippey's handout.



Carnlough

Saturday 17th August

Leader: Karen Parks and Mary Watson

Geology joint trip with Belfast Geologists' Society.



Glenarm Harbour Quarry workings

A good number of members from both societies assembled in *Carnlough* Car Park on a dry but cloudy average summer's day. Having been there in July 2023 it was nice to return for more Geology of Carnlough and its hinterland and also because weather was a lot better than our previous trip which had been extremely wet.

Once again with our local guide *Mary Watson* we were taken on another dander round the older part of the village and harbour before returning to the *Heritage Hub* in the main street where we had a lecture on Carnlough

Geology and Industry. Most of us had our picnic lunches inside the Hub.



Heritage Hub

After lunch Karen Parks then led us to *Garron Point* to study the limestone /basalt rocks and landslip. We undertook a 'drawing exercise' of the *Garron landslip* which most of us enjoyed our 'artwork' at the end of the session. At Garron Point we were also treated an interesting lecture from member *Shirley Gray* about the local landlords the Londonderry family specifically the *Marchioness of Londonderry*. Apparently the

family were extremely unpopular with some of the local tenants who suffered badly from their 'land improvement' schemes resulting in eviction at the time of the 1845 Famine.

We then resumed on our journey south to *Glenarm* to view the *Harbour Quarry* workings before our final stop at *White Bay* just south of Glenarm on Coast Road. Here we stopped to see the chalk outcrops and fossils at the beach close to site of major landslips in 1960s onwards that led to Coast Road being reconstructed and extended.

Ian Forsythe



Garron landslip



Garron Point Harbour looking south



Cetaceans training at Whitehead

Saturday 14th August

Leader: Irish Whale and Dolphin Group

Following on from an introductory talk on Cetaceans of Irish Waters (October 2022), BNFC members wished to find out how to undertake land-based surveys for cetaceans around our coast and acquire the skills to allow them to do this.



Bottlenose Dolphin

We gathered at the *Country Antrim Yacht Club* (an excellent venue with glorious views out to the mouth of Belfast Lough) for the 'classroom session' on the morning of 14th September. The session included the practicalities on undertaking a cetacean survey, identification features of our commoner cetacean species and how to report any sightings. After lunch we met up at Portmuck to put the knowledge gained in the morning session into practice. Sea conditions were pretty good and a number of Harbour Porpoise were seen - the commonest cetacean species in Ireland.

Ian Enlander



Port Muck and Isle of Muck



Bottlenose Dolphins



Fungus Foray at Drum Manor Forest Park

Saturday 5th October

Leader: Debbie Nelson and Chris Stretch
Northern Ireland Fungus Group

The *Northern Ireland Fungus Group* (NIFG) had kindly invited members of the BNFC to join them again for a joint fungal foray in *Drum Manor Forest Park, Cookstown, County Tyrone*. Owned and managed by the

Forest Service, they acquired the estate from a *Mr. Archibald Close* in 1964. It opened to the public as a forest park in 1970. With its caravan and camping site and central location in Northern Ireland it makes it a popular attraction for visitors and tourists.



Fungus Foragers

The Forest Service Northern Ireland is an executive agency of the *Department of Agriculture and Rural Development* entrusted with the development of forestry and the management of forests within Northern Ireland. It was created on 1 April 1998.

A Victorian “Big House” with extensive gardens and grounds - the tower, the balustrade terrace and the ground floor walls of the early manor-house remain intact. The parkland has been landscaped with a lake and planted with a wide variety of non-native trees and shrubs.

As per our usual meetings we had a morning and afternoon session with a break for lunch. It was quite a slow start, as this particular year was quite a late start to the fungus season, but the afternoon proved more fruitful and we managed a grand total of almost 80 species.

A full species list is given at the end of the report but here are a few of the highlights from the day.

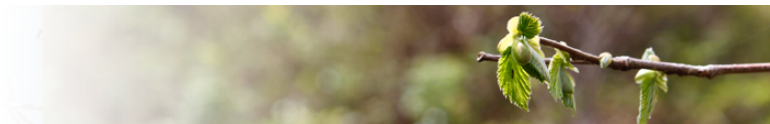
As the group descended the hill towards the “fishing lakes” we spotted an old ash stump covered in a large clump of Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) – a very common and deadly pathogen that slowly kills our native trees.

The grounds have a great number of Rhododendrons which have a specific ascomycete fungus which behaves as a plant pathogen that infects the buds of azaleas and rhododendrons (*Seifertia azalea*). The buds blacken and fail to open – commonly called Rhododendron Blight or Bud Blast – this could be an advantageous control of the highly invasive *Rhododendron ponticum*.



Honey Fungus (Armillaria mellea - Ash)

contd



Fungus Foray at Drum Manor Forest Park (contd)



Debbie and Ted studying one of the many Rhododendrons

Many of the species can only really be seen with a hand lens or macro lens so a lot of the finds are spotted by the “eagle eyed” - plus a larger group will benefit from multiple “eyes”.



Bud Blast



The tiny Holly Parachute (left) (*Marasmius hudsonii*) is a great example – no more than 15mm high and only grows on dead holly leaves. Both cap and stems are covered in erect hairs.



Dripping Bonnet (Photo Liam McCaughey)

On a dead bramble stem we found some sprouting Dripping Bonnets or Slippery Mycena (*Roridomyces roridus*), very viscous and quite pretty. Again, quite small with a cap 5–15 mm in diameter. The stipe or stem is covered with a thick, slippery slime layer. I believe this species can be bioluminescent



Cypress stumps

After lunch we PM we covered more of the arboretums and the ornate walled gardens. The Forest Service Northern Ireland clearly had been very busy felling quite a number of Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) trees, many of a great age – these tall conifers with feathery foliage may have succumbed to Phytophthora root rot which causes branch dieback and wilting foliage. There were huge mounds of woodchip everywhere, and of course this provides a perfect habitat and growing medium for colonising fungi.

contd



Fungus Foray at Drum Manor Forest Park (contd)



NIFG member, Ted Rolston found an absolutely enormous flush of Common Rustgills – (*Gymnopilus penetrans*) growing among the debris of the Lawson Cypresses. They literally carpeted the forest floor.



Striate Earthstar

As we were nearing the end of the afternoon, our leader Debbie spotted a couple of nice finds – firstly, the Striate Earthstar (*Geastrum striatum*). Quite elegant and relatively uncommon, this species is invariably found at the base of large conifer trees and is always a delight to come upon.



Fly Agaric

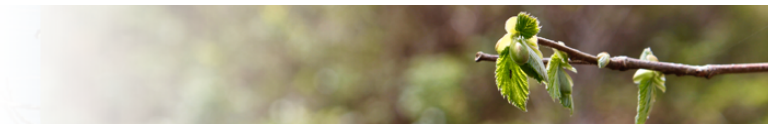
A little later, we completed the day with a walk around the walled garden and in among the shrubbery in the woodchip, Debbie spotted some Fly Agarics (*Amanita muscaria*) under a Birch tree.

Bright scarlet and covered with distinctive white pyramidal warts - The archetypal white-spotted red toadstool so steeped in myth and folklore was a fitting finale.

I have highlighted a few of the finds of the day, Drum manor is a mature woodland park and another valuable nature reserve in Northern Ireland. Our combined group had a rewarding field trip with a great variety from the world of fungi, the "Fifth Kingdom" as it is sometimes known as.

I would like to record our grateful thanks to the Northern Ireland Fungus Group (NIFG) and in particular, Debbie Nelson for many of the finds and to Chris Stretch for compiling the species list below.

Matthew Porter, 20th December 2024.



Fungus Foray at Drum Manor Forest Park (contd)

Species List

With thanks to Chris Stretch of Northern Ireland Fungus Group.

Species and hosts/partners (where recorded/known) – A few common names too!

Ascomycetes – The sac fungi or ascomycetes.

It is the largest phylum of Fungi.

Adelphella babingtonii (= *Pachyella babingtonii*) - Rotten wood

Calycina citrina - Oak

Claviceps purpurea - Grass

Dasyscyphella nivea = Oak

Erysiphe alphitoides - Oak

Erysiphe heraclei - Hogweed

Hyalorbilia inflatula - Rotten wood

Hypomyces chrysospermus - Bolete

Lanzia luteovirescens - Leaf petiole

Orbilbia sarraziniana – Wood

Peziza arvernensis

Phacidium lauri (= *Phacidiostroma multivalve*)- Holly

Podosphaera epilobii - Willow Herb

Rhytisma acerinum - Sycamore

Rhytisma salicinum - Willow

Scutellinia setosa - Rotten wood

Scutellinia trechispora - Soil

Seifertia azaleae - Rhododendron [Rhododendron Blight or Bud Blast]

Sphaerellopsis filum (= *Eudarluca caricis*) - *Puccinia caricina*
(mycoparasite on *Puccinia* c.)

Taphrina betulina - Birch

Xylaria hypoxylon - Sycamore

Xylaria longipes - Sycamore

Basidiomycetes - These are also known as club fungi due to their club-shaped basidia which bear spores.

Agarics are a family within the *Basidiomycetes*, having fruiting bodies consisting of umbrella-like caps, on stalks, with gills beneath

Amanita muscaria – Birch [Fly Agaric]

Armillaria gallica - Oak

Armillaria mellea – Ash [Honey Fungus]

Clitocybe fragrans

Cortinarius triumphans - Birch

Entoloma tenellum

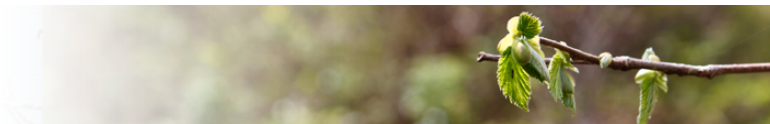
Gymnopilus penetrans - Lawson's cypress debris [Common Rustgills]

Gymnopilus peronatus

Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca - Lawson's cypress

Hypholoma fasciculare

Inocybe assimilata - Oak



Fungus Foray at Drum Manor Forest Park (contd)

Agarics continued

Laccaria laccata - Oak

Lactarius blennius - Beech

Lactarius fluens - Beech

Lactarius quietus - Oak

Lactarius turpis - Oak - Ugly Milkcaps

Marasmius hudsonii - Holly [Holly Parachute]

Marasmius rotula - Conifer

Melanoleuca cognata

Mucidula mucida – Beech

Mycena acicula

Mycena filopes

Mycena flavescens - Lawson's cypress

Mycena galericulata – Oak

Mycena leptcephala

Mycena pura

Mycena tenerrima

Mycena vitilis

Naucoria escharioides - Alder

Paralepista flaccida

Paxillus involutus - Birch

Pholiotina blattaria (=P.teneroides, Conocybe blattaria)

Psathyrella corrugis

Psathyrella piluliformis – Stump

Psathyrella prona - Katsura

Ripartites tricholoma

Roridomyces roridus, -Bramble [Dripping Bonnet or the Slippery Mycena]

Russula atropurpurea - Oak

Russula nobilis - Beech

Russula ochroleuca - Oak

Russula queletii - Spruce

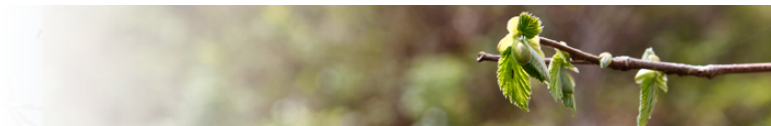
Rusts

Coleosporium tussilaginis - Butterbur

Puccinia caricina var. *ribesii-pendulae* - Pendulous Sedge

Puccinia circaeae - Enchanter's Nightshade

Puccinia veronicae - Wood Speedwell



Fungus Foray at Drum Manor Forest Park (contd)

Others

Apioperdon pyriforme

Cyphella ferruginea - Willow

Dacrymyces stillatus - Wood

Farysia thuemenei - Pendulous sedge

Fistulina hepatica - Oak

Ganoderma adspersum - Rhododendron

Geastrum striatum- Conifer [Striate Earthstar]

Lycoperdon perlatum

Mycoacia uda

Scleroderma citrinum

Scleroderma verrucosum

Schizopora paradoxa - Oak

Stereum hirsutum commonly known as the hairy curtain crust.

Trametes versicolor

Xerocomellus chrysenteron

Xylodon sambuci - Elder

Oomycetes - Water moulds, fungus-like eukaryotic microorganisms.

Plasmopara nivea - Ground Elder

Chytridiomycetes - *Chytridiomycota* are a division of zoosporic organisms in the kingdom Fungi.

Synchytrium taraxaci

Myxomycetes - A class of slime moulds.

Tubifera ferruginosa (commonly known as raspberry slime mould or red raspberry slime mould)

