

November/December

Sunday 15th

Hunting for a Home

10am–11.30am. Shanganagh Park. Examine trees, burrows and log piles to find out who lives where before learning how to make suitable homes in your own gardens. **Leader:** Aoife Munn.

Saturday 21st

Staying Warm

10.30am–12.30pm. Fitzsimons Wood. Learn how primitive man stayed warm whilst living in the forest, with marshmallow toasting around an open fire for all survivors. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.

December

Tuesday 1st

"Birds, Quirks and Foibles"

8pm. Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney. Richard Collins will speak and discuss birds and their various habits and behaviours, in his own informative way. **Leader:** Dr Richard Collins, well known Naturalist and contributor to the Mooney Goes Wild Show.

Sunday 6th

Make Christmas Decorations Using Natural Materials

10am–11.30am. Killiney Hill. Meet in the main car park. Join us for this family craft-making event as we roam around the park looking for natural materials to make Christmas decorations for the house and tree. Try your hand at making a deer wood-sculpture. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.

Saturday 19th

Make a Christmas Wreath

10am–11.30am. Killiney Hill. Meet in the main car park. Come along to this end-of-year workshop and make your very own Christmas wreath using natural materials found around the park. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.

Further Information

Many events require pre-booking so please contact the event leader where stated

For enquiries please call Dean Eaton (Asst. Environmental Awareness Officer) 01 204 7900 or email deaton@dlrcoco.ie. Individuals and families are welcome. Please dress appropriately for outdoor activities and the weather on the day.

Events have been organised by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in association with a variety of charities, clubs and individuals whose primary interest is natural history and nature conservation. All events will be led by experienced naturalists from these organisations.



OWLS (Outdoor, Wildlife, Learning and Survival) is a fun club for children and families to discover more about nature. The club delivers a range of activities in local parks to raise awareness and understanding of the natural world. For more information visit: www.owls.ie



BirdWatch Ireland is a conservation organisation dedicated to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Ireland. Their work includes extensive research and surveying, conservation projects, preparing and advocating policy and raising awareness. For more information visit: www.birdwatchireland.ie



AOIFE MUNN is an RHS trained horticulturist who teaches horticulture in primary schools, putting an emphasis on environmental protection. Aoife also lectures in horticulture, gives talks to gardening groups, sets up allotments and provides horticultural therapy. <https://www.facebook.com/irish.environmental.education>



Presentation Ecology works to promote ecoliteracy, personal and social sustainability. We advocate on behalf of the natural world and its citizens for a right to a healthy sustainable and beautiful environment. www.ecopresireland.com

Crann works to enhance the environment of Ireland through planting, promoting, protecting and increasing awareness about trees and woodlands. www.crann.ie



EXPLORING NATURE



dlr Biodiversity Events

September–December 2015

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council



September

Saturday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Guided Forest Ecotherapy Walks

12 noon–3pm. Carrickgollogan Wood car park.

Join us for a relaxing stroll through woodland and learn about trees and the health benefits gained from reconnecting with nature. Sturdy footwear recommended. **Leaders:** Shirley Gleeson, Diarmuid McAree, Crann 'Trees for Ireland'

Tuesday 1st

"Birds": A journey from the garden to wilder places

8pm. Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney. Watching garden birds can lead you to birds of the Countryside, Hills, Seashore and Cliffs. Our talk will guide you on your way. **Leader:** Dick Coombes, BirdWatch Ireland, South Dublin Branch.

Saturday 5th

Treasure Hunt

10am–11.30am. Shanganagh Park. Meet in the main car park. Learn to identify plants, insects and important natural features whilst taking part in this treasure hunt. **Leader:** Aoife Munn.

Saturday 12th

Who Dares Wins

10am–12pm. Marlay Park. Meet in the main car park. Are you up for a challenge? This event is only for the bravest. Dare you eat the weird and yucky things found growing or crawling on the woodland floor? Suitable for children aged 6 and up. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.

Saturday 19th

Biomimicry – What we can learn from nature?

12 noon–2pm. Marlay Park. Meet in the courtyard. Join us for a walk through Marlay Park and discover the genius of the natural world. Learn about the innovative topic of Biomimicry and how we can look to nature for ideas for new sustainable designs and technologies.

Leader: Sophie Nicol, Earthwise Education. **Booking required:** 086 7743234.

September/October

Sunday 27th

Natural Navigation

10.30am–12 noon. Shanganagh Park. Join us as we navigate around the park using natural features and landmarks to give us clues on the direction we're heading, north, east, south or west? **Leader:** Andrew Fleming. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.

October

Saturday 3rd

Exploring Our Natural Life Support Systems

12 noon–2pm. Killiney Hill. Meet in the main car park. Join us for a walk up Killiney Hill and investigate the ecosystems, niches and habitats of the area and learn what services they and the wider ecological world provide for us. **Leader:** Kate Egan: Presentation Ecology. **Booking required:** 086 7743234

Tuesday 6th

Wonderful Wildflowers of Ireland

8pm. Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney. We all know Daisy and Buttercup, now allow Zoe Devlin to expand your knowledge of the broad landscape of Ireland's wild flowers. **Leader:** Zoe Devlin, author of *Wildflowers of Ireland, a Field Guide*.

Saturday 10th

Autumn Harvest

10.30am–12 noon. Shanganagh Park. Join us for a stroll around the park as we forage for wild foods. A fun event looking for natural things you can eat from the wild. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.



October/November

Saturday 17th

Seed Safari

10am–11.30am. Cabinteely Park. Take part in a seed safari and learn how best to gather and store your seeds ready for sowing and learn the tricks to tell if they are ripe or not. **Leader:** Aoife Munn.

Saturday 24th

Witches and Wizards

10.30am–12pm. Killiney Hill. Meet in the main car park. Come along and get ready for Halloween by making your very own witches broom and wand using natural materials found in the park. **Leader:** Andrew Fleming. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.

November

Sunday 1st

Winter Waders

10.30am. Booterstown car park. Have you ever wondered why all these waders arrive in the Dublin Bay area each autumn? Come along and all will be explained. **Leaders:** Members of BirdWatch Ireland, South Dublin Branch.

Saturday 7th

Make a Bird Peanut Log Feeder

10am–12.30pm. Marlay Park. Meet in the main car park off Grange Road. At this time of year, many birds struggle to find food. You can help them by making your very own peanut feeder to take home. For this workshop each participant gets to use safe mini drills and hammers. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Contact Andrew on 087 3299936.

Saturday 14th

Taking Your Children Outdoors: A how-to guide

12 noon–2pm. Fitzsimons Wood. Meet at the gate across from Kilcross Avenue. Would you like to bring your children outdoors but find they get bored fast or are nervous of new environments? Come and learn how to unplug from the computer screen and make walks in the woods exciting and fun for all the family. **Leader:** Kate Egan, Presentation Ecology. **Booking:** 086 7743234.