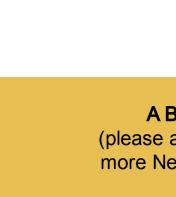
CO. WICKLOW PPN Public Participation Network Wicklow highlights Biodiversity Week 19th - 28th May Ireland's National **Biodiversity Matters** Biodiversity is essential for sustaining the ecosystems that provide us with food, Public Participation clean water, fuel, health, and other services we take for granted in our everyday life. **Network** Wicklow "The Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss Called for Action. **Wicklow Climate Action** Plan They asked us all to re-evaluate our current practices across the whole of society They want to hear from you and in industry, agriculture, social enterprise, local government, national agencies and government departments. Future generations are depending on us to act now. Check out the details in the Some sectoral interests and lobby groups may resist attempts to address News Section below on biodiversity loss, but it is urgent that our policy makers, in particular our politicians, how to engage with this are supported in making bold decisions to protect, conserve and restore the natural consultation environment in the interest of all of the people, present and future, of the island of Ireland. "The reassuring greens of our landscape mask the loss we are experiencing of so To catch up on news from many key elements of our natural environment. this week click on the link below: The figures that the Assembly heard are stark. And the problems are getting worse. News Update Things must change." (Dr Ní Shúilleabháin, Chairperson of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss) Please Note: There will be no News Update next week (Friday 26th May) Meet Wicklow's New Biodiversity Officer Dr. Laura Kehoe Laura is an environmental scientist and activist. She uses science, art, and campaigning to protect and restore the living world. She has published her research in Science and Nature, raised funds to plant over a third of a million trees across sub-Saharan Africa, brought together over 600 European scientists and 300 Indigenous groups to call on the EU to make international trade sustainable, led the team that discovered a completely new chimpanzee behaviour. She is honoured to be Wicklow's brand new Biodiversity Officer. Her work has been featured on the BBC, the Guardian, Sky News, the Irish Times and RTE. She sometimes tweets from @laurajkehoe National Biodiversity Week #BiodiversityWeek2023 Biodiversity Week 19th - 28th May **Biodiversity Week in Co Wicklow** Celebrate Biodiversity Week with Line-up of Free Events in Wicklow WHAT'S ON Biodiversity A detailed list of interesting events has been put together by Wicklow IN WICKLOW County Council's new Biodiversity Officer, Dr Laura Kehoe, to celebrate Biodiversity Week which runs from Friday, 19th to Sunday, 28th May. The line-up includes a morning of **OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS** Sustainable Gardening at Ballyraine Campus, Arklow; a field session on marine ecology in Wicklow harbour; hedge bothering **BIODIVERSITY WALK** at Kindlestown woods; a 19 TH 14:00 nourishing forest school for kids in **DEVIL'S GLEN** Blessington; learning about what we are doing for the elusive Barn Owl in Baltinglass, and chats about **AWARENESS COURSE** a world on fire with activists and 19 TH 16:00 forest gardeners at Glencree. **POWERSCOURT** Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, **BUMBLEBEE ID WALK** stated: "We are thrilled to host such 20 TH 11:00 a diversity of events to celebrate **GLENDALOUGH** Biodiversity Week. We are committed to protecting and enhancing our environment, we **CHILDRENS** look forward to welcoming community members on this **BIODIVERSITY WALK** iournev." 20 TH 14:30 **ALTIDORE CASTLE** Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, added: "We are looking forward to holding these events that will allow **GARDENING MORNING** us to connect with the diversity of life in Wicklow. Just as the days are 21 ST 10:30 **BALLYRAINE CAMPUS** getting warmer, it's the perfect time to learn more about the biodiversity around us". **BEE AND WASP WALK** The majority of events are free-of-**21** ST 10:30 **RUSSBOROUGH HOUSE** charge. www.biodiversityweek.ie Addition to the Programme Riders on the storm: honest chats about a world on fire. Sun 28th May at 7.30pm in The Happy Pear, Greystones Join the guardian of Ireland's oldest food forest Astrid Adler, youth activist Orla Reserve a spot Murphy, and Wicklow's new Biodiversity Officer Laura Kehoe, as they chat about our role in this world, how we can transform society and the ground beneath us, and how we find community, courage, and joy along the way. Join this session for some nourishing chats and tasty snacks. All free of charge. Wicklow's Blue Dot Rivers - Riverside Workshop Organised by East on Sunday 21st May from 10am to 3pm Wicklow Rivers Trust & at Aughrim Sean Linehan Walk Tinakilly Bridge Aughrim **LAWPRO** This Field Workshop will include an: Introduction to Blue Dot Programme Introduction to the Work of LAWPRO, Blue Dots in Wicklow Water quality targets in Blue Dot sites and assessment of same Riverwalk to highlight the main features – physical, chemical, and biological of Biological sampling and basic training in the use of macroinvertebrates to Reserve a spot assess high quality status freshwater rivers and streams – the role of Citizen Scientists · and more, including lunch Invasive Species Survey & Workshop Organised by Greystones on Saturday 27th May from 11am to 12.30pm Tidy Towns Biodiversity meeting at the Community Orchard beside Aldi at Mill Lane Group Organised by Greystones Tidy Towns Biodiversity Group Mill Lane is a beautiful pedestrian multi-use path that connects two large roads, Mill Road and Kilcoole Road. This is the beginning of a project to transform this lane from an area overgrown with invasive species to a real, native wildlife corridor. JRVEY + WORKSHOP At this workshop the Biodiversity Sub Committee Chair, Adam Calihman, will lead people through identifying the main invasive species and native species within the lane, followed by hands-on tagging to gather data needed to progress the project. No experience is needed to take part, equipment will be provided but if you have your own gloves feel free to bring them along. **Even More Events** (notified to us by Green Greystones) Friday 19th May: The Journey So Far – A conversation with Ireland's Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss A very special webinar discussing the events of the first Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss in October 2022. Katie Reid (participation lead for the Assembly) will host a conversation with some of the children and young people involved about their experiences, calls to action and hopes for the future. Greystones & Delgany youth representatives Marlie, Olwyn, Síofra & Lucas took part in this assembly from local schools Gaelscoil na gClocha Liath, Greystones Educate Together NS, St David's Holy Faith SC, and Templecarrig SC. Click HERE to reserve a spot. Thursday May 25th @ 7pm: The Life in Our Rivers: Join Keith Scanlon from Delgany Tidy Towns for a hands-on, family friendly session on all the macro invertebrates that live in our rivers and how they sustain all the birds and animals that can be found there. Meet at Archers Wood tennis courts, A63 A2K1, to attend this event. Sunday 28th May @ 10am: Clean Coasts North Wicklow Beach Clean: Meeting at Rise at the Cove, A63 V406, this family friendly beach clean takes place on the last Sunday of every month. All are welcome, equipment provided. You can keep track on all their activities here: https://www.facebook.com/CleanCoastsNW Sunday 28th May @ 3pm: Biodiversity through Play & Clay: Join Alex from Understory supported by Delgany Tidy Towns in this outdoor workshop to explore what biodiversity means through tactile learning. We start with a short walk to find natural materials and then incorporate them to make our very own biodiversity inspired sculpture. This event is perfect for families; all ages from preschool to students, parents, and grandparents. Meeting at Archers Wood tennis courts, A63 A2K1, to take part. Sunday 28th May @ 8pm: Sustainability Stories - Slow Fashion: Join Gordon Elliott of Christchurch Parish and Keith Scanlon, of Delgany Tidy Towns at the Old School House A63F858 to hear what works, what doesn't work, and share your experiences of sustainable fashion. **Biodiversity Week Nationally** The **Biodiversity** Photographer of the Year National Biodiversity Week is all about connecting people with nature. It's about **competition** is open for communicating the importance of biodiversity and motivating us all to play our part in submissions until the 31st protecting it. May. It's also about entertaining us, showing the fun and wonder that can be found in Explore wildlife on land or nature, and inspiring us to learn more, see more, do more. sea and enter to be in with a chance to win great National Biodiversity Week is organised by the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), prizes. with thanks to funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Events are run by IEN member groups, as well as by Local Biodiversity Officers and Heritage Officers and other local groups. Find out more & Enter Find out More About All Events What We Can Do 10 Ways that our local environment can be improved to 5 Easy Ways to Help Wildlife make space for biodiversity in your garden or community spaces Nature responds quickly when land is managed in a way that is more favourable to biodiversity. Click on the image below to access a presentation prepared by Justin Ivory, PPN East Wicklow Everyone who manages land, whether it is a small Environmental Rep on the Wicklow Co. Co. Climate & garden, a large farm or public spaces, can greatly **Biodiversity Action SPC** improve the landscape for biodiversity, by making small changes. Click on the image for more information. 5 EASY WAYS The Hedge Code **IEN** excited to announce the launch of their new all-Ireland hedgerow conservation campaign. The Hedge Code helps you plant, retain and rejuvenate your hedgerows, which are part of Ireland's natural heritage and are vital for our health, well-being and wildlife. There are twelve actions in total, spread across there categories: Planting Hedgerows; Managing Hedgerows; and Sustainably Harvesting Hedgerows. We encourage anyone with a hedgerow to become a Hedge Code supporter, including Find out more garden owners, farmers, businesses, sports clubs, Residents Associations, and County Councils. **Environmental Toolkit for Community Groups Environmental Action Academy** Within this toolkit, prepared by our PPN colleagues in Sligo in collaboration with ATU Sligo, you will find information, tips and resources allowing you and your community **Toolkit** to take positive steps towards increasing sustainability, awareness, and environmental initiatives. Community action can help to create a sustainable landscape which is rich in biodiversity, that will help to revitalise our local habitat, reduce our carbon footprint and to also positively impact all of the other services and benefits that our local environment provides to us. Access the Toolkit This toolkit was designed to provide you with information, ideas, tips and tricks, that when partnered with your passion, energy, and enthusiasm could help to deliver projects on a local level that have wide reaching benefit. Information Sessions on the Environmental Toolkit Sligo PPN and ATU Sligo are hosting 2 short information sessions to introduce groups to the guide – where to find it and how to use it for different purposes etc. Join 7pm session Biodiversity News from a few of our PPN Member Groups **ReWild Wicklow** Snapshot Europe 2022 Report Published ReWild Wicklow Citizen Scientists Unite with Academics for Ireland's Largest Ever Wildlife Camera Survey To celebrate National Biodiversity Week, community environmental group ReWild Wicklow today release the full report from their 'Snapshot Europe 2022' wildlife camera project conducted in conjunction with Irish and German Universities late last Full Article In the largest initiative of its kind ever conducted in Ireland (let alone the county), ReWild Wicklow volunteers worked with academics to set up and monitor 37 camouflage cameras in a bid to record wildlife levels across central county Wicklow in September and October 2022. Plans for Snapshot Europe 2023 are already under way and ReWild Wicklow hope to **ReWild Wicklow** expand the project area again this year into the Vale of Clara and Devil's Glen woodlands. Website They are currently seeking donations to sponsor additional cameras. Visit their website for more information. West Wicklow Environmental Network **Greener Garden Spaces** A visit with <u>WWEN</u> & Wicklow Co Co to <u>Tearmann Community Garden</u> "Tearmann is a haven, a space for all to experience the benefits of gardening in community." Throughout the space, there were bug hotels, bird feeders, nesting boxes, willow structures and furniture made by local community and school groups. On the day people heard about how even a tiny pond in an urban garden can help the small species in a garden to flourish and about green gardening which works with the land and the species around us. Full Article **Wicklow Aquanauts** We should not forget our marine heritage just because we cannot see it Wicklow Aquanauts are a scuba diving club based in Greystones. The club have been contributing to The National Science Monitoring Scheme since May 2016, when that scheme came into operation. To date we have completed 84 underwater surveys of wildlife. This includes both plants and animals. We have completed 53 surveys in Full Article Greystones Harbour and 31 in Carrig Eden Bay. These records contribute to the information recorded on the National Biodiversity website We regard this wildlife as part of our heritage and hope that it will receive the care and attention that it merits. Newtown 2050 A note from Huw O'Toole, PPN Environmental Rep on the Wicklow Co. Co. Economic Dev. & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee and Chair of Newtown2050 The natural environment and its inherent economic value are constantly undermined and undervalued in Economic Development strategies. This is something I am working to change and will be representing PPN's strong stance on this in the coming discussions regarding the Local Economic Community Plan. Full Article Newtown2050 are developing the concept of an area of Wicklow within a 15KM radius of Newtownmountkennedy which is dedicated to a Carbon Zero economy and a biodiverse environment for all species including Humans. Biodiversity Wonders and more **Biodiversity Wonders** Full List of Biodiversity What Biodiversity Wonders would you add to these? Green plants evolved to remove carbon dioxide and release oxygen. We evolved to breathe in oxygen and we release carbon dioxide Baby birds evolved to eat insects. Insect populations are in sharp decline. Trees release oxygen. There are 3 trillion trees. We need 6 trillion. Small is powerful: Bacteria rule The wreak of the Titanic is being eaten by the bacteria it brought down with it A handful of soil contains 8 billion microorganisms, one for every person on Earth. Hedgerow in West Wicklow this morning -17% of human DNA is the same as the buttercup. can you spot the bee? thanks to Sharon Jackson, PPN West Wicklow Environmental Rep on Wicklow Co Co Climate & Biodiversity SPC Wild Flowers in the Wicklow Hills **Tormentil Heath Milkwort** Lousewort Fraughan thanks to Helen Lawless, WWEN for this piece A few Useful Resources Children & Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss In October 2022, Ireland held its first Children and Young People's Assembly on where we are connected to and care for the rights of nature Biodiversity Loss. The report from this Assembly has been launched. We are and each other) so that Biodiversity delighted to report that the voice of Wicklow's children & young people was s restored and protected represented in this Assembly. The Assembly brought together 35 randomly selected Members aged 7-17 from across Ireland to explore, discuss and create calls to action on how to protect and Access the Report restore biodiversity in Ireland. Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss The Assembly was launched in early 2022 and met on six occasions between May 2022 and January 2023. At its final meeting on 21 January 2023, the Assembly voted on a series of propositions that were the culmination of careful deliberation and debate, informed by detailed input from experts, stakeholders and the general public. The final report from this Assembly was launched in April this year. It contains over 150 recommendations that have the potential to dramatically transform Ireland's relationship with the natural environment. Access the Report The National Biodiversity Data Centre National The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and **Biodiversity** information more freely available in order to better understand and assist the **Data Centre** protection of Ireland's biodiversity. A Heritage Council Programme The 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. An essential part of this work is the role of our **Citizen Scientists**. This site also contains information on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Some other useful Resources **Gardening for Biodiversity (Juanita Brown)** The Local Authority Prevention Network is a cooperative program between the Environmental Protection Agency and local authorities in Ireland. There is so much more available out there to help us get involved. Hope this has helped you to get started. A Brief News Roundup from this week (please also check back on previous **Updates** for more News update and details of other currently open Funding Schemes) Wicklow PPN Community Catch Up Events It was a pleasure to meet people from across the county at our Community Catch Ups. While the numbers were small the networking, exchange of information and chat was mighty. Thanks to the many groups that provided information on the work their doing in communities – it was inspirational. Thanks also to the following for joining us for these events and sharing information on important developments in the County with us: • Deirdre Whitfield, Wicklow Co. Co Clodagh Whelan, Wicklow Age Friendly Co-ordinator • Storm Pyper, Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre · Laura O'Callaghan, Disability Federation of Ireland Clara Jenkinson, Wicklow Sports Partnership Presentations will be uploaded to our website next week. **New PPN Representatives** We are delighted to welcome the following new Representatives to our Team Secretariat (Environmental Seat): Maria O'Loughlin, nominated by ReWild Wicklow Wicklow Co Co Community, Cultural & Social Development SPC (Environmental Seat): Lynda Stopford, nominated by Newtown 2050 We will be putting out a **County Wicklow Partnership** (NW Wicklow Seat): Tommy Tutty, nominated by call in the coming weeks Hollywood Community Forum for a PPN Rep for the East Coast Fisheries Local **Action Group Elections** are ongoing for the Community & Voluntary PPN Rep Seat on Wicklow Co. Co. Community, Cultural & Social Development SPC. If you got an email about this election please remember to vote by the 31st May.



They Want to Hear from You Wicklow County Council is developing a Climate Action Plan and is seeking your input. They want to hear your view about action areas where local government can play a role in both: Mitigation - delivering on our national greenhouse emission reduction targets,

You can contribute to this consultation through:

At one of the **Stakeholder Engagement Sessions**:

Click **HERE** to register for this session.

Click **HERE** to register for this session.

HERE to register for this session.

for this session.

throughout Ireland.

The objectives of the week are to:

interactive exhibits and much more!

other countries.

Congratulations to:

Bray Community Centre

granted under the Community Recognition Fund.

Gardaí and other key stakeholders.

maintains personal safety and security.

change.

The **Online Survey**

Co. Wicklow Climate Action Plan

 Adaptation - implementing local measures to ensure protection and adaptability of our communities and natural resources in the face of changing climate

Social Inclusion Interests: in person in the Bray Family Resource & Development Centre, Bray at 10am on Monday 22nd May. Click HERE to register for this session.

Farming Interests: in person in the Brockagh Centre at 6.30pm on Monday 22nd May.

Environmental & Community Interests: online on Monday 29th May from 3 - 4.30pm.

Business & Industry Interests: online on Monday 29th May from 6 - 7.30pm. Click

The actions of the plan will look not only at how Wicklow County Council can

Youth Interests: online on Tuesday 30th May from 6 - 7.30pm. Click HERE to register

transform its own operations and services but will consider what other organisations the Council can partner with and what supports it can give to local communities and individuals. A joint effort is required to reduce and prepare for the impacts of climate

WCC encourage you to

have a look at their summary report before

completing the survey.

Community **Engagement**

Week 2023

AIB Community €1 Million Fund Open for nominations until Wednesday14th June AIB customers and the general public can nominate an organisation with a registered charity number. The charities that receive the highest number of nominations are shortlisted and invited to present to a Judging panel made up of AIB representatives and independent adjudicators. The reviewing process will take place over the Summer and the top six charities in each region are announced in Autumn 2023. National Community Engagement Week #NCEW2023

> An Garda Síochána Monday 22nd to Friday 26th May

Allow communities to meet and discuss safety concerns with their community

Raise awareness of the many aspects of crime prevention and community

Empower communities to acquire advice and knowledge that promotes and

Cruinnú na nÓg Festival - Returns to Co. Wicklow Saturday 10th June

Promote and inform best safety and security practices - share details on the use

National Community Engagement Week is designed to achieve the collaborative

objective of increased community engagement and community reassurance

of innovation and education to improve community safety.

people in the artistic and creative activities. This day of free creativity for children and young people features a broad range of offerings which will give the whole family the opportunity to try something new. With over 40 activities and workshops across nine locations, there is plenty to choose All events are free, and people are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. For further information, contact Síle Stewart, Art Services Coordinator, Wicklow County Arts Office, at sstewart@wicklowcoco.ie or on 0404 20100 extn. 4910. UCD Festival 2023 - Be Inspired on Saturday 10th June in Belfield Campus

Funding Announcement for the County ...

Seven Wicklow Community Projects will benefit from €1.6m government funding

The Community Recognition Fund is a major initiative designed to specifically

Children and young people across County Wicklow are invited to get creative and Cruinniú na no take part in Cruinnú na nÓg 2023 on Saturday, 10th June. Cruinniú na nÓg highlights and encourages participation by children and young Join this Free event packed with performances, engaging talks, hands-on science,

DEVELOPMENT **G**ALS

C/O CEART, Crinion Park, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow T: Helen - 087 189 5145 T: Grainne - 086 048 7434 E: info@countywicklowppn.ie W: www.countywicklowppn.ie

support communities across the country that are hosting people from Ukraine and Arklow Playing Pitch Associated Works Baltinglass Community Park Greystones Community Park Rathdrum Community Park Wicklow Town Place Making Project Thanks for reading and please share with others in your community group. We hope you picked up some useful information for your group. Remember if you have any questions or would like more information, please do contact us. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please send an email to info@countywicklowppn.ie with the subject County Wicklow Public Participation Network