

General Information

Bookings are necessary for some events and many are suitable for children (accompanied by adults for all events). Please dress appropriately for outdoor activities and the weather on the day. The bat walk will occur at dusk, along paths of uneven ground, and may finish in darkness. Please be aware of your ability to participate in these walks. Events are organised by the Biodiversity Office of Kerry County Council in collaboration with other partners, including:

Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre

Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre is a visitor attraction aimed at attracting new overseas and domestic tourists to Tralee and the wider South-West region. The project utilises the rich natural heritage of the Tralee Bay area – wetlands of international importance – to attract visitors to the area.

Bat Conservation Ireland

Bat Conservation Ireland is a charity dedicated to the conservation of Ireland's bats. They promote conservation of bats by disseminating educational materials, giving talks and leading bat walks, carrying out nationwide surveys and monitoring of bats and providing a central repository for bat records.

Killarney National Park Education Centre

Killarney National Park Education Centre is a non-profit making entity, run by the Kerry Education Service and The National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Centre is based in Knockreer House, situated close to the town of Killarney, with spectacular views over the National Park. The ethos of the centre is based on a hands-on approach to learning about nature.

MISE – Mammals in a Sustainable Environment

MISE is a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the Ireland Wales Programme 2007-2013 (INTERREG IVA) and sets out to foster involvement of communities in Ireland and Wales in mammal conservation. Survey work in Ireland involves monitoring different mammals including otters, pine martens, bats and squirrels. See www.miseproject.ie for further information.

Inland Fisheries Ireland

IFI is the state agency responsible for the protection, management and conservation of Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources. See www.fisheriesireland.ie for further details.

Celebrate Kerry's Natural Heritage

BIODIVERSITY WEEK

Celebrate the beautiful and amazing diversity of Kerry's natural heritage - its plants, animals and landscapes. Come along to a series of FREE talks, walks and days out in the County that celebrate Kerry's biodiversity!

May 18th - May 25th 2013



Pic: Killian Kelly



BirdWatch Ireland

BirdWatch Ireland is focused on the conservation of birds and biodiversity in Ireland. There is a Kerry Branch of the group, see www.birdwatchireland.ie, for further details.

This is an action of Kerry's Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2008-2012



Events are FREE and open to all

For further information contact:
Cathy Fisher (Biodiversity Officer)
Kerry County Council 066 7183521
cathy.fisher@kerrycoco.ie

Saturday, 18th of May

NATIVE WILD FLOWERS IN OUR WOODS AND GRASSLANDS

Come along to learn more about the wild flowers of Kerry, particularly those that live in our woods and grasslands. This walk and talk in Ballyseedy Wood will help you identify the spring/early summer flowers found in our woods and grasslands. You will learn some basic flower identification skills that you can use to examine your own garden or locality for wild flowers.

Time/Venue: 2pm., Ballyseedy Wood, meet at the South Car Park (Farmers Bridge end)

Trainer: Colin Heaslip, Wildlife Biologist

Bookings Required: No, just turn up on the day. Suitable for children accompanied by adults.

What to bring: Suitable outdoor clothes, footwear and a basic flower identification book, if you have one.

Sunday, 19th of May

FAMILY NATURE FUN DAY

A variety of ecology based activities for 5 to 12 year olds and their parents.

Time/Venue: 10am-2.30pm., Killarney National Park Education Centre, Knockreer House, Killarney

Trainer: Chris Barron, Field Studies Co-ordinator at Killarney National Park

Booking Required: Yes, booking is essential as places are limited, call Killarney National Park Education Centre on 064 6635960 or email knpeducationcentre@eircom.net. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

What to bring: Wellingtons, packed lunch and suitable outdoor clothes.

Sunday, 19th of May

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BIRDWATCHING

Join us for a walk and talk on the birdlife of Ballyseedy Wood. Come along to this beginners guide to learn more about the woodland birds of Ballyseedy and their singing voices in the dawn chorus.

Time/Venue: 6am., for the Dawn Chorus. Meet at the Northern Car Park, Ballyseedy Woods (Off the main Tralee-Castleisland Road).

Leader: Tony Kenneally - Wildlife Biologist and Birdwatch Ireland member

Booking Required: No, just turn up on the day. Suitable for children accompanied by adults.

What to bring: Suitable outdoor clothes and footwear and binoculars (if you have them).

Monday, 20th of May

THE BARN OWLS OF KERRY

Join us for an update on a survey of Barn Owls in Kerry that has been ongoing for the last number of years. Where do Barn Owls live? What do they eat? Are there many in Kerry? All these questions to be answered on the night!

Time/Venue: 7.30pm-8.15pm., Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre, Ballyard Road, Tralee.

Speaker: John Lusby, Raptor Conservation Officer, Birdwatch Ireland

Booking Required: No, just turn up on the night. Suitable for children.

Tuesday, 21st of May

UPLANDS OF KERRY

Have you ever wondered what is so special about the mountains and upland areas of Kerry? This talk will focus on studies being undertaken on Mount Brandon by the Tralee Institute of Technology. You will hear about the habitats and species that make this area significant for nature conservation at a European level.

Time/Venue: 7.30pm-8.15pm., Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre, Ballyard Road, Tralee

Speaker: Kilian Kelly, Postgraduate research student at Institute of Technology Tralee

Booking Required: No, just turn up on the night. Suitable for children.

Wednesday, 22nd of May

BAT TALK AND WALK

Join us for an introductory talk about the bats of Kerry and their ecology followed by a bat walk, with bat detectors!!

Time/Venue: 8pm., followed by a Bat Walk at sunset. The talk is in Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre, Ballyard Road, Tralee with the Bat Walk starting at the South Car Park, Ballyseedy Wood (Farmers Bridge end), Tralee.

Speaker: Conor Kelleher, Bat Conservation Ireland

Bookings Required: No, just turn up on the night.

What to bring: Flashlight and suitable outdoor clothes and footwear. Suitable for children, accompanied by an adult. Please note the Bat Walk will occur at dusk, along paths of uneven ground and may finish in darkness. Please be aware of your own ability to participate in this walk.

Thursday, 23rd of May

KERRY'S PREHISTORIC FISH – THE LAMPREY

Go back in time with this talk on Kerry's prehistoric fish – the Lamprey. Found in many of our rivers and resident in the lakes of Killarney, this primitive fish has a fascinating ecology and life cycle.

Time/Venue: 7.30pm-8.15pm., Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre, Ballyard Rd, Tralee

Speaker: Sean Rooney, Inland Fisheries Ireland

Bookings Required: No, just turn up on the night. Suitable for children.

Saturday, 25th of May

KERRY'S OTTERS

This event is for those interested in knowing more about the distribution and ecology of Otters in Ireland, with a particular focus on research to date in the county. The day will involve a talk on otters followed by a river walk to see if we can find evidence of otters in the area.

Time/Venue: 11am-3pm., Knockreer House, Killarney

Leader: Andrew Harrington, part of the MISE team who are undertaking research on Otters in Waterford and South West Ireland.

Booking Required: Yes, bookings essential as places are limited.

Contact Cathy Fisher on 066 7183521 or cathy.fisher@kerrycoco.ie. Please note this event is not suitable for children.

What to bring: Suitable outdoor clothes, footwear and a packed lunch. Wellingtons are recommended as there may be some walking in water.



Pic: Adrienne McLoughlin

