



# Belfast Naturalists' Field Club

## Joining Instructions August – October 2010

The club has a mobile phone, **077 6737 8713** which will be carried by a member of committee on each outing.

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August - (B) Milford Cutting, Armagh and Gosford Forest Park,**

Conductor : Margaret Marshall

**Milford Cutting** - from Armagh City, take A3 Monaghan Road, 0.7 miles beyond National Speed Limit sign, left turn into Milford village. Meet at the far end of the village before the road narrows, at 11.00 a.m. (Grid ref. H 858 430) 5 minute walk up lane (boots)

The Ulster Wildlife Trust Milford Cutting was part of a railway line closed in 1957. It is now a wildlife corridor, with up to 18 species of butterflies, including Silver-washed Fritillary, many birds and the rare Irish Whitebeam (*Sorbus hibernica*) tree. Marsh Helleborine and Pyramidal Orchids grow there as well as many marsh plants.

We will then drive 9 miles by A28 Newry Road to **Gosford Forest Park, Markethill** (Grid ref. H 965 400)

Parking £4.20 per car or have an annual permit for all N.Ireland Forest Parks (£20 for over 60s). Picnic tables and toilets. For those wishing to join the afternoon excursion only, the quickest route from Belfast to Markethill is probably via Banbridge, Scarva and Poyntzpass.

We will set off at 2 p.m. on a 2 km walk on level ground to visit the Arboretum which has many well-labelled tree species, some over 150 years old, from all over the world. We return to the car park via the red deer enclosure, the heritage poultry and rare breeds collections and a cafe!

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August - (B) Brown's Bay**

Conductor : David Mc Neill

Meet at the Car Park at Brown's Bay, Islandmagee, ( Grid reference D 437 028 ) at 7.00 p.m. Strong/waterproof footwear recommended.

This will be mostly coastal flora and in some places we will be examining coastal flush. We will walk over the National Trust land at Skernaghan Point, where we hope to see Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) in flower – David spotted the leaves there on our May 2009 excursion.

This outing will be suitable for all level of botanists. If you think you have no botanical knowledge, come along and learn something.

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. - Arch/Hist Archaeological sites in the North coast**

Conductor : Lorraine Bourke ( NIEA)

Meet at Layde church carpark Cushendall (grid ref D2455 2892) at 11.00 a.m.

Sites on the itinerary will include Layde church, Red Bay Castle, Ardclinis church, passage tombs at Torr Head, Bonamargy Friary. If time permits other sites around Ballycastle will be visited. Our president, Claire Foley will be helping with the conducting of the trip, as she has been involved with some of the sites.

Strong footwear is recommended. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. - Dumfries and Galloway reunion.**

*Meet in the Grainger Room in the Ulster Museum at 7.30 p.m.*

This is not restricted to members who went to Dumfries and Galloway. It will be an opportunity to view photos etc. of the area and to share memories of the trip.

**Saturday 21st Aug - Zoology, Banagher Glen**

Conductor : Ian Irvine (NIEA Assistant Warden at Roe Valley Country Park)

*Meet in car park at 11.00 am the gates will be open. From Belfast take the M2, then A6 over Glenshane Pass into Dungiven, then take the B74 to Feeny and left onto Banagher Road, to Banagher Glen, a straight run of a few miles. C 672 048*

Nearest toilets will be Dungiven, bring a packed, portable lunch and stout walking shoes.

This is one of the oldest ancient oak woodlands in Ireland; it is a Nature Reserve and Special Area of Conservation. Last year Silver washed Fritillaries were seen here, so if the weather is fine we should see them too!

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept - Scrabo North Quarry.**

Conductor : Marion Allen, aided and abetted by Philip Doughty

*Meet at 2.00 p.m. at the entrance path leading to the North Quarry. This is opposite 19 Old Belfast Road, Newtownards. (J 476 735). Coming from Belfast by the dual carriage way at the Kemp Stone round-a-bout (at the shopping centres) take the 3rd right (Blair Main Road South), straight over the next roundabout and at the next major junction turn right, away from Newtownards, (Scrabo Road leading to the Old Belfast Road).*

*On leaving Newtownards, continue to drive up the hill past the sign to Scrabo Country Park (do not turn off) and the entrance is a short distance on your left. Park on the roadside - N.B. This is NOT the car park beside the golf club.*

This is a very light-hearted quiz on the geology of the North Quarry. Teams will be let loose with lots of clues, and many of the answers are in the clues. No previous knowledge necessary, but being on last year's excursion will help. Wild guesses accepted (if they are right!). Magnificent prizes.

Mostly on paths, with the occasional steep part. Stout shoes and a pencil/rubber/pen.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept - Before and After in the Ulster Museum by Peter Crowther**

*Meet in the Ulster Museum at 7.30 p.m.*

Peter will give a presentation about the refurbishment of the museum and help us realise the massive amount of work that was carried out during the closure of the museum.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept - Stranmillis University College**

Conductor : Jim Rutherford

*Report to the main gate (off the roundabout at the junction of Stranmillis Road, Stranmillis Embankment and Lockview Road) at 2.00 p.m. You will be told where to park. Bring a folding chair as we hope to organize a cup of tea and a biscuit to finish.*

A gentle dander through the beautiful grounds of the college with Jim Rutherford. The grounds are full of mature trees, some unusual shrubs, wetland and a couple of badger setts. Hopefully there will be lots of autumn colour. Mostly on paths, stout footwear.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. Arch/Hist - Archaeological sites in the Carrickfergus area.**

Conductor : Andrew Gault ( NIEA)

*Meet in the carpark beside Carrickfergus Castle at 11.00 a.m. Strong footwear is recommended. A packed lunch will be needed.*

**Saturday 2nd October (B) Fungus Foray - Clondeboye Estate, Bangor**

Conductor : Matthew Porter

*Meet at either 11a.m and / or 1p.m. in the Clondeboye Estate (Grid ref J474800).*

*There is a gap in the Belfast to Bangor A2 dual carriageway opposite the entrance gates, soon after the traffic lights at the B170 road to Dundonald.*

*The entrance to the estate is through large stone pillars. Continue through the estate over ramps until you see the main buildings on you right ,pull into the large car park and park on the right beside a grass bank.*

This is a joint excursion with the Northern Ireland Fungus Group.

There will be a morning session from 11a.m. until @ 12.30, returning to the car park for a picnic lunch. The afternoon session will be from 1p.m. until 4 p.m. Come to either or both . Bring identification books, collecting baskets and wear strong footwear and suitable clothing. *(The Collins Field Guides are very good but will only have the very commonly found species in them. This is good for beginners and helps you establish which ones you may come across on a regular basis)*

The day will be pretty relaxed so join in, make friends and have fun and learn a bit about our environment and habitats while you are there.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct      Conversazione - Ulster Museum 7.00 pm**

*The museum will be open for setting up displays from 5.30 p.m. and tea/coffee/tray bakes will be available from 7.00p.m. Displays will be packed up from 8.30 as we have to vacate the building for 9.00p.m.*

This is an opportunity for club members to share things of interest with other members so you are urged to display photographs, geological collections, historical artefacts, recording notebooks etc... Remember when putting out your display that the early bird gets the best spot! If you are a new member please don't feel you need to submit an exhibition; just come along and enjoy the exhibits. However, "old hands" are urged to contribute something no matter how small as we need something to talk about!

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct (morning)      Zoology - Birding on the Bann Estuary a.m.**

Conductor : Ivor McDonald

*Meet at 10.30am at the car park. C 789 353*

*Take the Coleraine/Castlerock road, A2, through Articlave. Take the Ballywoollen Road on the right at Hazlet PS, after ¼ mile take the left branch of the fork to Barrmouth Road.*

*Park in the car park beside the railway line.*

Reasonable terrain bring suitable walking shoes. Nearest toilets Castlerock.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct (afternoon) Geology - Portrush Rock at Ramore Head**

Conductor : Jim Rutherford

*Meet at the car park at Lansdowne Crescent Portrush at 2.00 p.m.*

We will examine one of the most celebrated geological sites in the world (a rival to the Giant's Causeway as far as many geologists are concerned). Here some of the fundamental issues of our subject were thrashed out near the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This was the famous controversy between the Neptunists and the Vulcanists. This really marked the beginning of "Geology" as we know it. This site is now an ASSI and hammers are forbidden.

We will end the day with a visit to the White Rocks where there is one of the best examples of an explosive volcano, and some textbook examples of marine features.



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*In future, we would like to be able to contact as many as possible of the members by email, so that late changes to programmed events can be easily notified, and also to save the Club some postage costs.*

*We have an incomplete list of members' email addresses on our membership database, and would like to confirm as many addresses as possible.*

*If you have an email account which you use regularly, and which you would like the Club to add to our database to enable easier contact, please send an email, quoting your name, from that account to the Hon. Secretary, at :*

**[honsecretary@bnfc.org.uk](mailto:honsecretary@bnfc.org.uk)**

*Note that the Club does not divulge members' addresses, email addresses etc. to any third parties without the member's express permission.*