



Belfast Naturalists' Field Club

Joining Instructions for May and June 2010

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

Tuesday 4th May Members' Night Ulster Museum 7.00 p.m.

Marion Allen and Joan Semple

This year we will revert to the original format of a review of the events in 2009 as well as a preview of summer 2010. The evening will start with refreshments for which there will be a charge of £2.50. If any member has photographs of any outings that they would like to share with other club members please contact the Excursion Secretary so that arrangements can be made to view them while we are having our refreshments.

Saturday 8th May General Botanic Gardens

Conductor : Colin Agnew, Botanic Gardens Staff member

Meet at 2.00 p.m. outside the Palm House in The Botanic gardens.

Parking may be a problem in the University area so you may want to consider using public transport.

The first outing of the summer season will be a conducted tour of the Botanic Gardens, followed by tea/coffee in the museum café.

Saturday 15th May Presidential Outing, West Fermanagh – Lough Macnean area.

Our President plans to show us archaeological sites in West Fermanagh over a two day period. If you plan to attend both days and wish to stay in the Enniskillen area please make your own arrangements for accommodation.

If there is enough interest the excursion Secretary will arrange a meal in Enniskillen on the Saturday evening.

The joining instructions for each day are as follows

Saturday *Meet at the car park in Belcoo at 11.00 a.m.*

Sunday *Meet at the car park in Belcoo at 10.15 a.m.*

A picnic lunch will be required both days.

Saturday 22nd May

Morning A/H Oldbridge - Conductors : Oldbridge staff

Afternoon Botany Mornington - Conductor : Declan Doogue

Meet in the coffee shop at the Boyne Centre Oldbridge (OS sheet 36 ref 0045759) at 10.00 There is now a motorway from the border making the journey much easier and quicker. Take the first exit after the Boyne Cable Bridge. Follow the brown sign for the Battle of the Boyne Centre. (You will need €1.90 for the exit toll). Bring a picnic lunch and euros. There will be a group entrance charge of €3 each.

We will meet up with members of the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club for a tour of the Centre and an audio visual display about the battle before moving on to Mornington for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon Declan Doogue from DNFC will lead a botanical excursion to the sand dunes at Mornington. 0155758 *Take the R150 out of Drogheda on the south side of the river to Mornington Dunes.*

Tuesday 25th May Zoology UWT Balloo wetlands site - Conductor : Ulster Wildlife Trust staff

Meet at 7.00 p.m. at the entrance to the UWT wetlands site Bangor. From the Rathgael Roundabout (junction of Newtownards Road, Rathgael Road, Balloo Road) take the Balloo Road and turn first right into Innotec Drive at the Signal Business Centre.(BT19 7PD) The entrance to the site is on the left and there is plenty of room for parking at the road side.

The nature reserve has two large ponds, a bird hide, a picnic area, paths and information panels. We hope to do some pond dipping and identify what is there. The majority of the path network is made of elevated wooden boardwalks that loop around the site and the walk around it is approximately one kilometre long. We will also visit the Balloo Woodland Nature Reserve. The woodland has some excellent examples of native tree species with some oaks thought to be as old as 400 years. We will be able to compare and contrast a newly developed site with an established one.

Tuesday 1st June Geology "Green Island, Black Stones and Red Rocks."

Conductor : Peter Millar

Meet at 6.30 p.m. at Hazelbank Park car park (3rd exit from roundabout at Newtownabbey end of M5) at Grid ref. J 354 815. Bring strong footwear/ wellingtons; rocks could be slippery.

Saturday 5th June General Castlerock
Conductor : Joan Semple

We will travel by the train that leaves Belfast Central station at 9.20 a.m.. Meet on the train as people might be joining from the Bangor, Larne or Portadown trains. The return train leaves Castlerock at 16.25 arriving in Belfast at 18.00

On Saturday 21st May 1910 members of the BNFC travelled by train to Castlerock and this excursion has been planned to follow in their footsteps. It will be interesting to compare the records of the 1910 excursion with our records of the day. Members may either bring a packed lunch or seek food in Castlerock.

Saturday 12th June Zoology Peatlands
Conductor : Trevor Boyd

*Take the M1 to Dungannon, turn off J13 at Loughgall - brown sign for Peatlands.
Meet at their car park at 10.3. a.m.*

The park is rich in insects, particularly butterflies, moths, dragonflies and damselflies, and many woodland and wetland birds nest here. Grey squirrels, badgers and hares are also present, while lizards and newts can be found in the open bog areas.

The highlight here is the Large Heath Butterfly.

The morning will be spent round the Park and the Bog garden, after a picnic lunch we hope to have an identification session of the butterfly species found.

Tuesday 15th June Botanical Carnmoney Hill
Conductor : Gregor Fulton (Woodland Trust)

Meet at 7.00 p.m. at the Carnmoney Hill Local Nature Reserve entrance beside the Rathfern Jubilee Playground, Knocknenagh Avenue (J342829).

M5 from Belfast, head towards Carrick, left at next roundabout (with the white column), signposted Glengormley, straight across next roundabout onto O'Neill's Road, first right into Knocknenagh Avenue, 0.4 miles to meeting point. Please try to share cars as parking is limited. Walking boots and sticks recommended.

We will do a loop on the lower slopes of Carnmoney Hill towards the wild-flower meadow, part of the Woodland Trust Forest of Flowers project, through new planting (10-12 years old), past ponds and wetland areas. We will head back through ancient woodland, so we can compare the differing flora. Bird life should also be interesting.

Saturday 26th June Geology/Botany
Morning Geology Gibson's Quarry
Conductor : Leslie Wortley

Meet at the quarry which is situated on the west side of Portadown, H980550 at 10.30a.m.

Directions: From the M1 take exit 12 and turn back along the A4 towards Portadown (avoids getting lost in this Mid-Ulster metropolis) to the 1st roundabout (at the new chapel).

Here take the Moy road (signposted) for 1 mile. Entrance to the quarry is on your left, just after a sign "Marley Hire" on the opposite side.

This is a very interesting quarry with a succession of peat, boulder clay, ignimbrite, basalt and chalk. The ignimbrite is a layered volcanic ash from a major eruption away to the north and which covered a large part of the north of Ireland. The chalk is one of the most westerly outcrops of this rock in Ulster.

The quarry is now unused and great care must be taken as some of the cliff faces are unstable.

Bring strong footwear, and a packed lunch, which will be taken when we join up with the botanists at Tannaghmore gardens.

Afternoon Botany Craigavon Lakes
Conductor : Margaret Marshall

Picnic tables and toilets at Tannaghmore Gardens (J048585)

If coming directly from Belfast, M1 Exit 10, Lurgan, right turn to Silverwood, Kiln Road and follow brown signs to Tannaghmore Gardens. Bring hand lenses and Floras. Level walking.

We will set off at 2.00 p.m. to visit the area between the Balancing Lakes where in 2006 we enjoyed great numbers of Bee and Pyramidal Orchids and many other limestone-loving plants.

There should also be many butterflies and birds.