

Dear Member

The Committee has been working on outings for spring and summer and the lecture programme for 2018 / 19.

While we have some final work to do draft versions of both programmes are now available and are shown here.

THE FIELD TRIPS ARE SHOWN BELOW.



*A Natterjack toad. A very noisy amphibian!
Marina Reyne will talk about their conservation.*

Proposed field trips for 2018			
Date	Activity	Le	
Saturday 7 April, 11am	Newts at An Creggan	MM	2
Saturday 12 May, 11 am	Bluebells at Killymoon. Toothwort and spring plants at Cabin Wood	RI and JA	3
Sunday 20th May, 5.30 am	Dawn chorus at Drum	RI	2
Thursday 24th May, 7 pm	Spring Estate Walk, Springhill	Sophie and committee	2
Saturday 2nd June, 2.30 pm	Waterfoot (BNFC)	EH	3
Sat 9th to Sun 10th June	Downpatrick / Murlough Bay with FIFC	?	3
Saturday 30th June, 11 am	Rare plants at Lough Fea	RI, IMcN	3
Saturday 14th July, 11 am	Orchids at Dungannon brickworks and Cummings quarry	JA ,EH, MM	4
Saturday 4th August, 11.30 am	Orchids at Lough Beg	JA	4
Saturday 11th August, 9.15 from ASDA, Cookstown <i>Deposit of £10 required</i>	Coach trip to Exploris, Portaferry and to National Trust places of interest in Ards Pensisula	Sophie, Maureen and MM	2
Friday 24th August 10 PM	Bat identification and counting at Lissan	Maureen	4
Saturday 6th October, 2 pm	Fungus Foray at Springhill	Sophie with committee	3

DIFFICULTY RATINGS OF OUTINGS

Level 1. Walking is on even surfaces indoors or outdoors and suitable for most levels of mobility.

Talks are held on Tuesday evenings from 7.45pm to 9.15pm in CAFRE's Loughry Campus, Dungannon Road, Cookstown BT80 9AA. Web: www.cookstownwildlifetrust.info | Facebook: www.facebook.com/Cookstown-Wildlife-Trust684592568343232/

Level 2. Walking on unpaved but generally firm surfaces although there may be loose stones and potholes. There may be a slight to medium gradient. Suitable for a range of levels of ability.

Level 3. Walking on uneven terrain or on grassy surfaces where tripping or slipping could be a hazard. There may be medium to steep gradients or steps. A walking pole or stick is recommended. Not suitable for people who are normally dependent on a walking stick.

Level 4. Walking or climbing on rough ground or over rocks. A walking pole and stout walking shoes or boots recommended. Only suitable for fit mobile people.

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Bee orchid pictured at Tyrone Brickworks July 2017.

We have been asked to provide a coach trip as in previous years and with the help of Sophie Atkinson we have planned a visit to Exploris in Portaferry and to several very special National Trust locations in the Ards Peninsula. Expect to see seals, birds of prey and interesting plants in addition to the beauty of Strangford Lough. We will also arrange to stop for tea / coffee at nice locations.

A coach is fairly expensive but if we can get enough interest we can probably do the trip for £10 to £15. This does not cover refreshments nor the entrance to Exploris.

If we are to proceed with planning we will need an early indication of interest followed by a £10 refundable deposit if we do not get enough interest. Our treasurer will say more about this at our meeting in March.

Excellent progress has been made with planning the lectures. The draft programme is shown overleaf.

LECTURES

Draft lecture programme 2018 / 2019		
Date	Lecture	Speaker
Tuesday 9th October 2018	Environmental Issues of Lough Neagh	Gerry Darby
Saturday 13th October 2018	Nature walk and lunch. An Creggan or Randallstown Forest?	
Tuesday 13th November 2018	Pine martins. Beautiful but vicious predator	Michael Stinson
Tuesday 11th December 2018	Wildlife presentations and social evening	
Tuesday 8th January 2019	Insects in the garden	Roy Anderson
Tuesday 12th February 2019	Puffins and other memorable sea birds	Shane Wolsey
Tuesday 12th March 2019	Amphibian and Natterjack toad conservation in Ireland	Marina Reyne
Tuesday 9th April 2019	Annual General Meeting	

COOKSTOWN WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

12TH FEBRUARY 2018.