

## Week long

**The Bog of Allen Nature Centre - Lullymore**  
Open hours Monday to Friday from 10am-4pm.

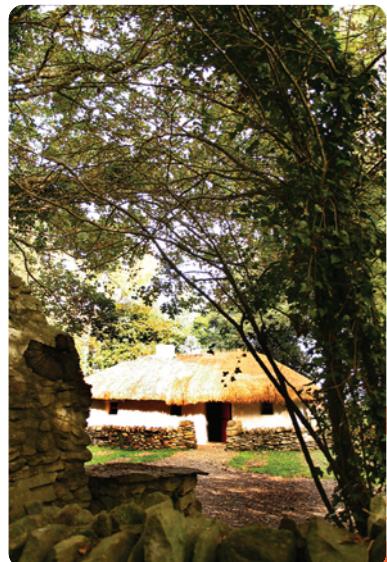
The Bog of Allen Nature Centre, in Lullymore, near Rathangan in Co. Kildare is an international centre for peatland education, conservation and research run by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council and is open all week long from 10am to 4pm.



**Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park**  
Open hours daily from 10am to 6pm daily.

Come and explore Lullymore Peat land Biodiversity Trial and the new Biodiversity Boardwalk, which meanders serenely through glassy lakes and rejuvenating peat land of birch, heathers and bog cotton. It tells the story of how the Irish midlands great raised bogs, 10,000 years

in the making are at the dawn of a new era. Having been harvested by industry for over half a century for energy, the Parks cutaway peatlands are establishing welcoming habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna.



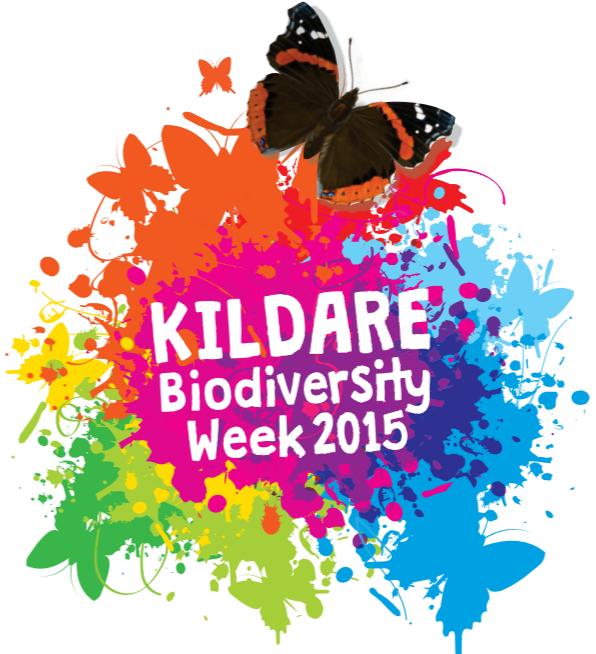
## BIODIVERSITY

**T**he word 'biodiversity' is coined from biological diversity, which, put simply is another way of referring to the variety of life on the planet. Biodiversity is about the variety of plant and animal species and the interaction between them. It is this interaction that is essential for life, giving us all the things we need - clean air, water, agriculture, food and amenity.



This year the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has designated "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" as the theme International Day for Biological Diversity 2015.

Humanity's fate is tightly linked with biological diversity - the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and human well-being. In short, our own health and wealth is directly linked to the health and wealth of the habitats and species that surround us.



**Sat 16th to Sun 24th May 2015**

This is an Action in the County Kildare Heritage Plan and the County Kildare Biodiversity Plan.

**For further details contact:**

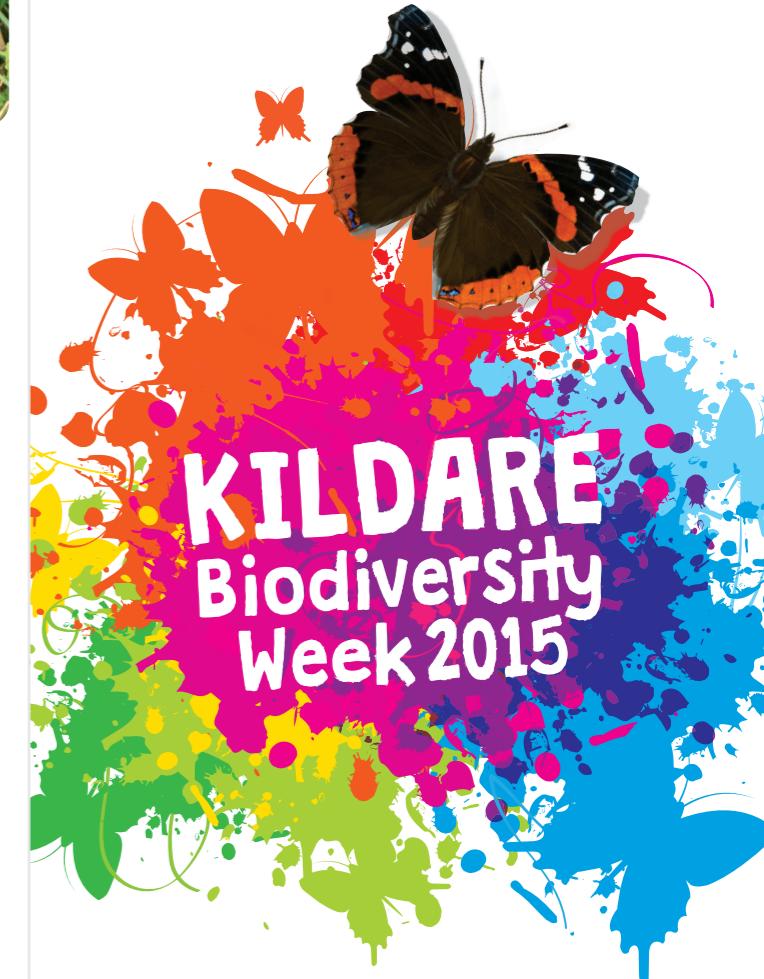
Bridget Loughlin - Heritage Officer  
/ Celine O'Neill  
Kildare County Council  
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Naas, Co Kildare  
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Coordinated by



*It is that range of biodiversity that we must care for - the whole thing - rather than just one or two stars.*

**David Attenborough**



**Sat 16th to Sun 24th May 2015**

# K

ildare Biodiversity Week has been organised to develop awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to better understand its value to the local, national and international communities. Kildare Biodiversity Week is a part of a European initiative to encourage people to take an interest in their local Biodiversity.

This listing of events has been complied by Kildare County Council. All events listed here are **FREE**. Children are welcome but should be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please dress suitably for the weather. Dogs must be on leads.

## Sat 16th May - Launch of Kildare Biodiversity Week 2015

The IPCC will host the launch of Kildare Biodiversity Week 2015 by the Mayor of County Kildare Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin at 2pm in the Bog of Allen Nature Centre Lullymore. Come along and meet Rua - the library red squirrel.

## Sat. 16th May - Biodiversity of Bogs or BIOBOG - Bog of Allen Nature Centre

IPCC have organised a family friendly day which will begin with a talk by Caitriona Smyth from the University of Berkeley on the ecosystem services of peatland and their value at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre Lullymore at 2pm. This will be followed by a walk across Lodge Bog, some children's activities including pond dipping, insect eating plants, frog and newt searches and peatland exhibition tour. All welcome to attend. Tea, coffee and cordial served.



## Sun 17th May - Dawn Chorus - Athy

Kildare BirdWatch will host a dawn chorus event to celebrate the installation of the new swift tower in Athy. Meeting at Edmund Rice Square car park at 4.45am. Dress suitably.



## Sun 17th May - Dawn Chorus - Carton House Maynooth

Kildare BirdWatch will host a dawn chorus in Carton House. Meeting overflow car park in Carton at 4.45am. Dress suitably.

## Sun 17th May - Bumble Bee Identification - Ardclough

Ardclough Tidy Towns are holding a talk and walk entitled "Bumble Bee Identification". Meet in the Ardclough Village Centre at 2.30pm.



## Sun 17th May - Woodland walk in Killinithomas Wood - Rathangan

Join George Hipwell, retired Forester and Dr Mary O'Connor on a guided walk through the wonderful Killinithomas Wood hosted by Rathangan Tidy Towns. Meet in Killinithomas Wood camp car park at 2.30pm.

## Mon 18th May - Canal Bank Walk - Naas Harbour

Explore the Canal Bank in Naas with Nuala Madigan IPCC who will lead a short walk exploring the flora and fauna of the Grand Canal. Meet in Naas Harbour at 7.30pm.

## Wed 20th May - Flora of Celbridge Village and Abbey

Dr Declan Doogue FLS will lead a walk through Celbridge Village and Celbridge Abbey to explore the local flora and to introduce the work of some historical botanical recorders who worked in the area. Meet in Celbridge Abbey car park at 6.30pm.

## Thurs 21st May - Flora and Fauna of Castletown

Rory Finnegan, Head Gardener will lead a walk & talk of the beautiful flora & fauna of Castletown Parklands. Advanced booking is essential as places are limited. Please bring suitable footwear and binoculars would be useful. Tel: 01-6288252 or castletown@opw.ie. Meet at Castletown front steps at 11am.



## Wed 20th May - Biodiversity of Cutaway Peatlands - Lullymore

Dr Mark McCorry, Ecologist will lead a bog walk hosted by Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park and Bórd na Mona which will look at some aspects of biodiversity on cutaway peatlands. The guided walk will look at some aspects of the newly developed cutaway area in the Discovery Park and the adjacent rehabilitating Bórd na Mona cutaway. The walk will be approximately 3 km and last 1.5 hours. The bog should be relatively dry underfoot at this time of year but it can depend on conditions. Meet at Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park at 3.30pm.



## Thurs 21st May - Dusk Chorus - Ballynafagh Prosperous

Kildare BirdWatch will host a Dusk chorus at Ballynafagh Lake (SAC). Meet in Ballynafagh Lake car park at 7.15pm.

## Sun 24th May - Wild About Clane!

Clane Tidy Towns with the help of Kildare Bat Group and Kildare Dormouse Group will introduce some of the rich and newly discovered biodiversity in Clane and this part of Kildare.

Meet 8:30pm on Sunday 24th in the car park of Abbeylands Shopping Centre Car Park.

All welcome. Contact email:  
ClaneTidyTowns@gmail.com.



# Biodiversity Day 2015

**Fri 22nd May - Biodiversity day in Solas Bhride Centre and Hermitages- Kildare**

In celebration of International Biodiversity day Solas Bhride will host a day of biodiversity events in the new Solas Bhride Centre and Hermitages, Tully Road, Kildare Town.

## 10am -11am - Event for Children with Kate Egan

Kate Egan from Presentation Ecology will provide a morning of fun biodiversity games and activities at Solas Bhride. Learn about Ireland's wildlife, discover what biodiversity is and how you can help protect it, test your animal knowledge, hunt for bugs and make a bug hotel. Suitable for ages 7 - 12 yrs.

Places are limited for the event and therefore must be booked in advance. Call Celine on 980239 or email coneill@kildarecoco.ie to book. Please note for this event all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

## 3pm -4pm - Catherine Keena, Teagasc Countryside Management Specialist & John Muldowney, Dept of Agriculture Climate Change Division

Catherine will present the amazing biodiversity of the Irish countryside, the chief custodians of which are our farmers. She will talk about how hedgerows, pastures and small areas of wetlands such as streams and ponds create a dense network of sites of biodiversity importance throughout Ireland and how Ireland's farmers are now protecting them under new agri-environmental schemes such as GLAS. This talk is of general interest but may also be of interest to 2nd level agricultural science students.

John will give an overview of how climate change will affect agriculture and farming in Kildare and will give an introduction to the GLAS scheme and funding opportunities.

## 6.45pm - Biodiversity Bus

Hop on the biodiversity bus hosted by Kildare Tidy Towns and visit internationally significant natural heritage sites of the Curragh and Pollardstown Fen. Dr Mary O'Connor will introduce the flora and fauna of these interesting sites.

Places are limited for the event and therefore must be booked in advance. Call Celine on 980239 or email coneill@kildarecoco.ie to book.

## 8.30pm - Dusk Chorus at Pollardstown Fen with Kildare BirdWatch