

## Information

- All are welcome. No experience required.
- Please wear suitable footwear and dress appropriately for outdoor activities, and remember that rain showers are frequent even when not forecast, the same can be said of sunshine and wind, so don't forget the sunscreen.
- Bring your own refreshments.
- No dogs allowed

### If you have them, bring along

- A hand-lens to add to your enjoyment, x10 is best, but any size will help you to see small plants and creatures close-up.
- Identity books for plants and insects to help confirm identifications.
- Plastic butter boxes to contain insects and invertebrates and allow you to see them while causing minimum harm.



The Mayo Naturalists' Field Club is an initiative of the County Mayo Heritage Forum and the County Mayo Heritage Plan



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council

# Mayo Naturalists' Field Club

Programme of Events  
Summer/Autumn 2015

For booking or further details on any of the events please contact the Heritage Office, Mayo County Council on 094 9047684 or email [heritage@mayococo.ie](mailto:heritage@mayococo.ie)

Please email [heritage@mayococo.ie](mailto:heritage@mayococo.ie) if you would like reminders about events or you would like to be notified about other heritage events happening in Mayo.

Explore and learn about the rich and fascinating wildlife of County Mayo in the company of experts and enthusiasts





# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2015

Friday 4th and Saturday 5th July

## Swifts in Mayo

Lynda Huxley

Lynda will give a talk on swifts and lead a swift watch and walk, affording us an opportunity to learn about the behaviour and biology of this fascinating bird and a chance to observe first hand local breeding colonies. This event is being held in conjunction with Mayo Swift Week.

Evening Swift Watch and Talk, GMT, Castlebar  
Friday 3rd July, 8.00 pm

Afternoon Swift Walk & Talk, Westport Town Hall  
Saturday 4th July, 3.00 pm

Saturday 18th July

## Oak Woods of Pontoon

Cilian Roden

Few remnants of Ireland's native woodland remain. In Mayo, one of the best examples of old oak woodland is to be found near Pontoon, on the southern shores of Lough Conn. Old oak woods are among our most diverse and interesting habitats. We intend to explore the oak woods of Pontoon; we will describe their vegetation and see if we can relocate the very rare wintergreen *Pyrola media*, although this could prove difficult as it seldom flowers. We will also keep an eye out for the Purple Hairstreak butterfly and other animals linked to old oak forest.

Places are limited so booking is essential.

Bring a packed lunch.

10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Meet at Pontoon Bridge car park.



27th July to 3rd August

## Mayo Recording Week 2015

### Mayo's Wild Flora

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) are gathering information all across Ireland on the **distribution of our wild flowers** as part of the Atlas 2020 project. This will update previous 1962 and 2000 Atlases. In Mayo, recording will be conducted and co-ordinated by BSBI recorder for East and West Mayo, Gerry Sharkey. The BSBI Irish Officer, Maria Long, helps coordinate and support the efforts of the volunteer recorders in Ireland and Northern Ireland.



If you are **interested in wild plants** and would **like to know more** about what the BSBI does and why it is important, why not come along to a talk which will be given by Maria. As a follow-up to the talk, we will also have a **plant recording day aimed at beginners**:

Wednesday 29th July

### How Do We Know Where Our Wild Plants Are?

Talk by Maria Long, BSBI Irish Officer

7.45 pm, Macalla Hall, Lough Lannagh, Castlebar

Thursday 30th July

### Plant Recording Day for Beginners

All are welcome but please email [maria.long@bsbi.org](mailto:maria.long@bsbi.org) so we know how many to expect.

Meet at 10.30 am outside Macalla Hall, Lough Lannagh, Castlebar

Both of these events are part of a **week-long recording effort** by the BSBI which runs from Mon 27th July to Mon 3rd Aug. During this week a team of botanists will be based in Lough Lannagh Holiday Village, and they will set out in small groups each day to record the wild flora of nearby parts of East and West County Mayo. Members of the Mayo Naturalists' Field Club who know wild plants and who wish to join any of these trips, or know of interesting places to record, can contact Gerry Sharkey on 087 6202550 or [gsharkey@patodonnell.com](mailto:gsharkey@patodonnell.com), or Maria Long on 087 2578763 or [maria.long@bsbi.org](mailto:maria.long@bsbi.org).

Saturday 29th August

## Nature and Wildlife of the Doon Peninsula

Chris and Lynda Huxley

Chris and Lynda will lead a guided walk around the Doon Peninsula woodland on the shores of Lough Carra.

Places are limited so booking is essential

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Wednesday 16th September

## Ireland's Butterflies

Dr David Nash

Dr David Nash, co-author, with Deirdre Hardiman and Trevor Boyd, of Ireland's Butterflies, a Review, a beautifully illustrated comprehensive review of the status, life-cycle distribution and habitats of all 35 species of butterfly breeding in Ireland, will present an illustrated talk on our butterfly fauna.

7.45 pm, Ballina Library, Pearse Street, Ballina

Saturday 17th October

## Joyce Country Geopark and the Natural Heritage of South Mayo

Trish Walsh

Trish Walsh, Director of Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre, will give a talk introducing the UNESCO Geopark concept and the Joyce Country aspirant Geopark. The talk will be followed by a field outing to explore the natural heritage of South Mayo

10.30 am to 4.00 pm, Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre, Clonbur, Co. Galway.

