


Binevenagh Nature Reserve -
Photocredit: Tourism NI

Summit to Sea


Spring/Summer 2019

Issue 3





Did you know that Magilligan Field Centre is the last Education Authority operated centre of its type in Northern Ireland? A key reason for this is that the area contains examples of almost every habitat type in the UK and Ireland



In the 1980s Magilligan Field Centre led an expedition to Iceland to compare geology and habitats with those in the Binevenagh area. Footage from this trip has been rescued by the project

In early 2019 Gerry Bond the first Warden of the Magilligan Field Centre provided a number of 8-track oral history tapes which document the memories of elderly Magilligan residents in the mid-1970s. These tapes have been restored by the project and will be used to develop project activities relating to the history of the area. Some of the residents recorded were born in the 1800s!

SAVE THE DATE AND HAVE YOUR SAY!

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland are hosting a public consultation on recreation possibilities for Binevenagh, Ballycarton, and Grange, including walking routes to Castlerock. Come to give your views, listen to what others think, and help us produce a recommendation that reflects the views of all.

TUES 21st MAY**7:00-9:00pm****St. Aidan's Church Hall, Duncrun Rd****Binevenagh, Ballycarton and Grange Outdoor Recreation Masterplan**

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) has been to produce a masterplan for outdoor recreation across Binevenagh, Ballycarton and Grange Park Forests

Between April and the end of June, ORNI will be working with stakeholders, landowners, and you, our local community to develop a five year development plan for a shared and improved outdoor recreation experience.

ORNI will be looking at options and determining if there is capacity to include additional off-road walks connecting Aghanloo to Castlerock; connecting Ballycarton to Swann's Bridge and onwards to the Roe Estuary Nature Reserve and Myroe and Ballykelly Bank Walks; connecting the

lower car park at St Aidan's Chapel to Ballycarton Forest (avoiding the graveyard and chapel); and connecting walkers from Benone Strand and Magilligan Point to the core project area.

Keep an eye on our social media and posters in local shops for public consultation events. You can also get in contact with your views about this project by contacting Fiona Milne at ORNI on 02890 303 939 or fiona@outdoorrecreationni.com

**Moors of Castlerock**

Photocredit: R. Donaghey



Invasive American Skunk Cabbage

Photocredit: R. Donaghey

Alien Invaders March Across Binevenagh

Spring is here and with it comes the return of the widespread invasive alien plant species, many of which have lay dormant through the cold of winter. These species grow particularly well in the area and have been spreading across Binevenagh, impacting our natural habitats, farms, road side verges and private land.

In late 2018 we commissioned an invasive plant species survey and the development of a management plan to ascertain the scale of the problem and identify a process of control to stem the flow and start a reverse.

Following this survey, we now have over 1600 records of 51 invasive plant species in the national biodiversity database including some garden escapee plants and three native species.

From the results we have identified key species and sites where we aim to eradicate some of the most damaging species. One such project will target all invasive species in the Curly Burn river catchment aiming for total eradication.

We are still very keen for further records so why not send us your sightings (richard@ccght.org) when you are out and about this spring and summer.



Invasive Japanese Knotweed

Photocredit: R. Donaghey

www.invasivespeciesireland.com

Binevenagh's Flowering plants

Which can you identify?



t s g h t y c i l r a g d l i w i d v b
i i t e l o i v g o d z y u f r n v m w
s p m y u c z u r c d w g h q x n s a y
u n z s v s e i d a l d n a s d r o l r
l u u o n c n f z h d t u i r m g a k p
l c e n i d n a l e c r e s s e l d y i
t d i c k h r i z m w z g b x s i r c t
r p i e v w f e f h p l c z v h e q b j
f q e w n h h n v z t d s i c c e w g a
k v w z d k t o m o d i r r n t s g e j
i p y a z n f m c o j x o y i i o w c t
d q r l l e b e u l b d c e g f r x a f
n i w o u a v n g e e n x f l r t b l i
e e h p c c t a n t m l n x w y e j c r
y q i v q q i d t k p i f f x u n c s h
v f f u r d o o w t e e w s l j r a v t
e f p j j h p o c w v s q u h q u k n d
t i a o z s i w r l u b c f m p b j r i
c j s x l p y z c u c k o o f l o w e r
h q b i y m o s s y s a x i f r a g e w

Cuckooflower : lords and ladies : lesser celandine : dog violet

moxy saxifrage : sweet woodruff : wood anemone : kidney vetch

spotted orchid : bluebell : wild garlic : burnet rose : thrift



Grangebeg Pillbox (National Trust)

Photocredit: J. O'Neill



Planning for the future of special defence heritage structures

The project has appointed Hamilton Architects to prepare conservation management plans and concept designs for five key defence heritage structures in the project area. The overall aim is to enhance physical and digital access to information about these sites, through sensitive conservation measures.

Structures included in the process include a WWII Trainer Dome (the only one in Northern Ireland) at Aghanloo Industrial Estate (RAF Limavady), the Magilligan Martello Tower, a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery at Magilligan Point, and two pillboxes near the Magilligan Ferry Terminal and at Grangebeg near Castlerock.

If successful, the Landscape Partnership hopes to provide enhanced access to these sites through a series of events, physical conservation works or on-line digital resources. The plans produced by Hamilton Architects will inform the best use of these sites in future.

As part of the planning process Hamilton Architects will be holding a public consultation evening in June. You, the local community, will be invited to come along and share your stories about the sites and any artefacts, photographs or documents you might have. These will be documented by Causeway Museum Service. Keep an eye on our Facebook site for details. If you want to contribute any information contact

nicola.donnelly@hamiltonarchitects.co.uk

We need bees!

Why are they important?

Bees are crucial to consistent food supply. It's estimated that about one third of the food consumed worldwide each day is reliant on pollination by bees and other pollinators, and that 80% of all European wildflowers are pollinated by bees.

There is evidence that natural pollination produces food crops that are healthier, more resilient, and richer in nutrients. For example, bee-pollinated strawberries produce larger, juicier, and more evenly shaped fruit.

Many of our, and our livestock's, foods are pollinated including many fruits, brassicas, squashes and melons, alfalfa, oil seed rape. Honey itself is used as an energy-dense food, as well as for medicinal purposes.

About 80% of commercial crops of blueberries and almonds are bee pollinated. Bees used

to pollinate 70% of crops in the UK, it is now only around 34%. Even so, the market linked to

pollination in the UK alone is said to be between £200-£690 million. Estimates are that it would cost £1.8 billion per year to employ people to manually pollinate the food crops that bees currently do for free!

Why are they declining?

Bee population is in decline due to threats to their habitat, and from pesticide use (which destroy the central nervous system of bees).

Climate change and extreme or unusual weather patterns disrupt bees nesting behaviour and alter normal bloom times of the flowers that bees rely on for food.

Lack of biodiversity and declining numbers of blooming flower species, particularly native species, mean

bee populations decline. It's estimated that 76% of plants preferred by bumblebees have declined in recent decades, leading to a parallel decline in pollinators.

Different bees have characteristics that mean they are more suited to pollinate certain types of plants – for

instance some have longer tongues in order to penetrate deep flowers, while other bees are small, so they are able to easily enter drooping flowers. Non-native species of plants and predatory insects also can impact upon bee levels.

What can you do?

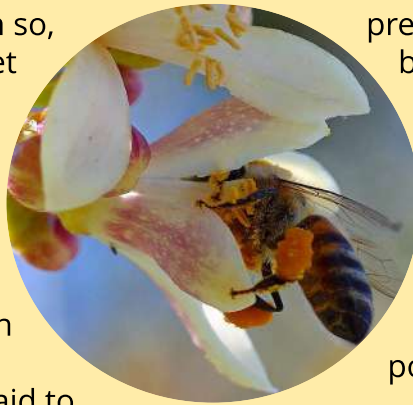
Though it sometimes seems futile, we can all make a difference. Fill your garden, or a part of your garden, with a wide

variety of bee-friendly flowers. Don't cut the natural blooms that appear, or at least leave them at the borders of your site. Keep native plant species alive (which may mean being on the lookout for non-natives that edge them out). Stop using pesticides in any areas you have control over, and when buying seeds or flowers ask your garden centre for ones that haven't been pre-treated with pesticides; keep asking others to limit their pesticide use.

Provide shelter areas for bees. We have tree-living, earth-dwelling, and even some bees that like to live in stone walls. If you see a weak, exhausted bee you can go the extra step and mix a solution of 1tbsp water with 2tbsp white sugar and leave it near to the bee so it can recover.

Next time you see a bee, its legs heavy with pollen, take a moment to appreciate its incredible design and the work it does in bringing food to your table. Do what you can to help keep them around. See links:

www.invasivespeciesireland.com
bit.ly/honeyflower bit.ly/plantbee



Project Community Contacts

Traditional Orchard Management
event with CAFRE and CCGHT



Aghanloo

Aghanloo Community Association

aca31@outlook.com

Ballykelly/Limavady

Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers

Matthew Ferguson

028 7776 4429 / 07565 659 444

rvaresearchers@gmail.com

Castlerock

Castlerock Community Association

028 7084 9303

castlerockcommunityassociation@gmail.com

Coleraine

Causeway Rural and Urban Network

(please contact LPS office below)

Magilligan

Magilligan Community Association

alice.conn@gmail.com

Limavady area

Limavady Community Development
Initiative

028 7776 5438 / recycle@lcdi.co.uk

Get in touch directly with us at:

**Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands
Landscape Partnership Scheme**

lps@ccght.org

375 Sea Coast Road Magilligan BT49 0LF

028 7775 0238

[@binevenaghandcoastallowands](https://www.binevenagh.co.uk)

