

## BIODIVERSITY 2014 SUMMER/ AUTUMN EVENTS PROGRAMME



### Marine Litter Clean Up Bull Island UNESCO Biosphere May 17<sup>th</sup> (10 am)

To celebrate International Week of Biodiversity join with kite surfers, paddle surfers and other users of Dollymount beach who will be doing a cleanup of marine litter on the Causeway. Marine Litter has packed into in this area which is adjacent to the salt marsh, a habitat where many birds feed and wade. Small Marine Litter objects can easily be ingested by birds and cause them damage.

The event will be led by Dr Agnieszka Piwowarczyk an environmental scientist. It is inspired by Surfrider Foundation Europe, an internationally recognised NGO which facilitates awareness of how waste from human activity ends up in the lifecycle of the oceans. "If you drop it on the land, it ends up in the sea". Collection of bags, pickers, gloves will be at the Interpretative Centre around 10 am. Everybody is welcome, so please come and support the collection on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Some of the litter collected will be used for a children's art activity exploring wildlife and nature of the Bull Island on 24-25th May (Battle for the Bay).

**This event is brought to you by Surfrider Foundation Europe / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience. All ages.*

For more information contact Agnieszka Piwowarczyk. Email [a.a.piwowarczyk@gmail.com](mailto:a.a.piwowarczyk@gmail.com)

[http://www.initiativesoceanes.org/collecte\\_biodiversity-week-battle-for-the-bay-at-bull-island-unesco-biosphere-reserve-saturday-17-may-2014\\_6296.html?lang=2](http://www.initiativesoceanes.org/collecte_biodiversity-week-battle-for-the-bay-at-bull-island-unesco-biosphere-reserve-saturday-17-may-2014_6296.html?lang=2)

### Dusk Bird Chorus St Anne's Park 20th May (7.30 pm)

As part of National Biodiversity Week, Dublin City Council in partnership with BirdWatchIreland will be holding a free event for all the family to enjoy the wonder of the dusk chorus in Dublin's St Anne's Park. A brief introduction to Ireland's songbirds will be followed by a walk to listen and identify all the bird species seen and heard on the evening. People will be encouraged to record their sightings on the morning using BirdTrack which is an online recording system that allow bird conservation organizations throughout Britain and Ireland to track the migrations and movements of birds. It can be used using a mobile phone app and allows a person to keep a log of their sightings.

[www.birdtrack.ie](http://www.birdtrack.ie)

**This event is brought to you by BirdWatchIreland / Dublin City Council.**

*Meeting Point. Car park on James Larkin Rd, near old pond and junction with Bull Island Causeway.*

*Audience. All Ages. Will involve walking a distance*

For more information Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#) and Niamh Ni Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [BirdWatch Ireland > Home](#) and Brian Caffrey BirdWatchIreland 0579151676.

## Celebration of International Day of Biodiversity May 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Dusk Bird Chorus Herbert Park 22nd May (7.30 pm)

As part of National Biodiversity Week, Dublin City Council in partnership with BirdWatchIreland will be holding a free event for all the family to enjoy the wonder of the dusk chorus in Dublin's Herbert Park. A brief introduction to Ireland's songbirds will be followed by a walk to listen and identify all the bird species seen and heard on the evening.

**This event is brought to you by *BirdWatchIreland* / Dublin City Council.**

*Meeting Point. Band Stand. Near Pond.*

*Audience. All Ages. Will involve walking a distance*

For more information Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#) and Niamh Ni Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [BirdWatch Ireland > Home](#) and Brian Caffrey BirdWatchIreland 0579151676.

### Native Amphibian and Reptile Display, walks and talks at Bull Island Interpretative Centre, May 22<sup>nd</sup> (10 am to 4.30 pm)

Join members of the Herpetological Society of Ireland to celebrate their Lizard Survey work on Bull Island Biosphere. Drop in to see display material on native amphibians and reptiles and their lifestyle and habitats. Learn about the work of the HSI and how they trap and identify the shy lizards on the island. Join them to see trapping methods on **a walk and talk from the interpretative centre at 12 noon and 3 pm**. Learn more about how you can volunteer to participate in Lizard Survey work during the summer with the HIS

**This event is brought to you by the Herpetological Society of Ireland / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience. All ages. Will involve walking over uneven wet ground*

*No Booking required Free Event or more information contact 2223369 / 8338341*

### Marine Life Display and Arts and Crafts at Bull Island Interpretative Centre May 22<sup>nd</sup> (12 noon to 3 pm)

Learn about Ireland's Marine life by visiting our interactive touch pool display where you can hold and feel real live sea creatures. Get expert information from Marine Ecologist Sarah Varian and her team who will have display material for you to investigate ranging from razor shells, crab claws, whale baleen and shark egg cases. Make some cool arts and crafts from marine material.

**This event is brought to you by Marine Dimensions / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience: All ages.*

*No Booking required Free Event or more information contact 2223369 / 8338341*

## Dawn Bird Chorus Liffey Valley Park May 24<sup>th</sup> (4.30 am)

As part of National Biodiversity Week, Dublin City Council in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland will be holding a free event for all the family to enjoy the wonder of the dawn chorus in Dublin's Liffey Valley Park. A brief

introduction to Ireland's songbirds will be followed by a walk to listen and identify all the bird species seen and heard on the morning.

**This event is brought to you by *BirdWatchIreland* / Dublin City Council.**

*Meeting Point.* St Mary's Avenue West just off Sarsfield Road, adjacent to Liffey Gaels GAA Club. DCC Staff will be present at pedestrian gate to East Timor Park next to Liffey Gaels GAA Club

*Audience.* All Ages. Will involve walking a distance, small torch required.

For more information Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#) and Niamh Ni Cholmain , Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [BirdWatch Ireland > Home](#) and Brian Caffrey [BirdWatchIreland 0579151676](#).

## **Children Transform Marine Litter to Art Bull Island UNESCO Biosphere May 24<sup>th</sup> (from 2.30 pm)**

As part of a fringe activity "Battle for the Bay Kite Surfing Championships" Dublin City Council will put on a display and talk on Biodiversity of Bull Island at 2.30 pm on Dollymount Beach. Alongside of this Members of the local kite surfing community will have a free drop in activity area for children to create art from marine litter. The art will depict the natural wonders of Bull Island from birds, to orchids to wild open spaces. In recent months kite surfers, paddle surfers and other users of Dollymount beach have come together under the inspiration of Surfrider Foundations Europe to clean up the beach and causeway and thereby raise awareness of how waste from human activity ends up in the lifecycle of the oceans.

**This event is brought to you by Battle for the Bay / Surfrider Foundation Europe / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience:* Children will need to be accompanied by adults in the Marine Litter Art Activity Area.

Free event for more information contact Agnieszka Piwowarczyk. Email. [a.a.piwowarczyk@gmail.com](mailto:a.a.piwowarczyk@gmail.com)

[Hello and Welcome to The Battle 2014 » Battle For The Bay](#)

[http://www.initiativesoceanes.org/collecte\\_biodiversity-week-battle-for-the-bay-at-bull-island-unesco-biosphere-reserve-saturday-17-may-2014\\_6296.html?lang=2](http://www.initiativesoceanes.org/collecte_biodiversity-week-battle-for-the-bay-at-bull-island-unesco-biosphere-reserve-saturday-17-may-2014_6296.html?lang=2)

## **Lizard Survey Bull Island UNESCO Biosphere . Mid May to throughout the summer**

The Herpetological Society of Ireland along with Dublin City Council biodiversity wants to extend their Lizard Survey over the summer months and would welcome volunteers. It requires commitment to participate as group of 12 people on a rota system and to set and check lizard / amphibian traps.

**From April to Mid May** the surveying requires traps to be set 8.30 – 9.00 pm at various locations on Bull Island and to return following morning between 7.30 am and 10 am to check and identify for lizards and other amphibians and to return them to habitat and remove trapping cells.

**From Mid May onwards** it requires the setting of traps before noon check in afternoons

**This event is brought to you by the Herpetological Society of Ireland / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience.* Not suitable for very young children. Young adults need to be accompanied. Need to be able to negotiate uneven and marshy ground. Headlamp if doing evening work

Enquiries booking through [niamh.nicholmain@dublincity.ie](mailto:niamh.nicholmain@dublincity.ie) / 2223369

## Swift Survey Talk and Workshop Pearse St Library May 26<sup>th</sup> (6.30pm - 8 pm)

As part of the Dublin City Council and BirdWatchIreland Urban Birds Project 2014, we will be running a workshop on one of Dublin's most iconic and fascinating birds species – the Swift. The informal workshop will start at 6:30 pm with a presentation on Swifts, with tips on how to identify and take part in the Dublin City Swift Survey. This will be followed by an evening walk to see the birds in action in Dublin City Centre.

**This event is brought to you by *BirdWatchIreland* / Dublin City Council.**

For more information Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#) and Niamh Ni Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [BirdWatch Ireland > Home](#) and Brian Caffrey BirdWatchIreland 0579151676.

## Rose Festival Biodiversity Fringe Event Dublin City Council 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> July

As part of the Dublin City Council's iconic Rose Festival we will be hosting displays, walks and talks on Biodiversity. Topics include bees of the Rose Garden, beekeeping, how to garden for wildlife. Throughout the festival at Bull Island Interpretative Centre we will be exhibiting photographic works on wildlife and the habitats of Bull Island taken by local people and local school children. We will also be hosting a special display on wild Orchids at the centre.

For more information Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#)

*Audience. All ages*

*No Booking required Free Event or more information contact 2223369 / 8338341*

## Kids Sea Camps, Bull Island UNESCO Biosphere 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July (10 am – 2pm)

We are delighted to welcome these Kids Camps to Bull Island. These camps have been successfully running in Bray over recent years. They are an exciting option for children who are interested in nature and the outdoors. Through expert instruction and facilitation from experienced marine biologists children are introduced to the wonders of marine life. Activities during the camp include , walks , illustrated talks, instruction using interactive touch pool containing live sea creatures , bird watching , sea weed identification , arts and crafts activities. Bull Island and Dollymount Strand provide the perfect place for the exploration of marine life of Dublin Bay. Bull Island is home to many rare and protected species associated with wetlands and coastal habitats.

Participants are given a follow up marine wildlife education pack and goodie bag with poster, stickers worksheets and quizzes. They are also presented with a certificate of course attendance.

**This event is brought to you by *Marine Dimensions* / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience. 6 – 7 yr olds (Kids Sea Star Camp) and 8 – 12 yr olds (Marine Explorer Camp). Will need to wear outdoor waterproof clothing/ shoes, change of clothes/ shoes, sunscreen and packed lunch*

*Booking Essential.* Maximum places 25. Recommend early booking to avoid disappointment. Cost 130 euro per child 117 euro if book by May 1st and if you book in more than 1 child. Full payment required at least 7 days prior to Mon 7<sup>th</sup> July Book direct online with Marine Dimensions [www.marinedimensions.ie](http://www.marinedimensions.ie) and complete online registration form <http://www.marinedimensions.ie/1819.0.html>

Further information Phone: Marine Dimensions 2828876 email: [admin@marinedimensions.ie](mailto:admin@marinedimensions.ie)

**[Link to Information for Parents / Guardians including booking payment details](#)**

## Survey of City Swift May to August 2014

As part of the Dublin City Council and BirdWatchIreland Urban Birds Project 2014, we invite you to join with BirdWatchIreland volunteers to conduct walking surveys in designated parts of the city to look for Swift. We want

to be able assess the status of the city's Swift population and their nesting sites so that we can manage their conservation. Their numbers are thought to be in decline due to a reduction in available nesting sites due to building and development. They are migratory, high altitude, birds associated with cities. Their screeching calls can be heard late on summer evenings. They land only to nest. They spend their entire life on the wing. They mate , feed and even sleep while in flight. WOW! Training in surveying techniques will be provided by BirdWatchIreland.

**This event is brought to you by Bird Watch Ireland / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience. Not suitable for young children. Requires walking a distance.*

*Free Event Booking required through Biodiversity Parks DCC and BirdWatchIreland or more information contact 2223369*

Contact Niamh Ni Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [niamh.nicholmain@dublincity.ie](mailto:niamh.nicholmain@dublincity.ie) and Brian Caffrey BirdWatchIreland 0579151676.

## **Dublin City Council Celebration of Swift July 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Atrium Civic Offices**

As part of the Dublin City Council and BirdWatchIreland Urban Birds Project 2014, we will be hosting a free public exhibition on one of Dublin's most iconic and fascinating bird species – the Swift. It will include displays about Swift, their lifecycle, migration, conservation and management. Novel approaches to conservation in Dublin City will be explored by community groups, artists, planners and architects. A Swift Workshop 7.00 pm – 9 .30 talk followed by walk to survey for a Swift over buildings at dusk will be held as part of this week at a venue to be confirmed.

**This event is brought to you by Bird Watch Ireland / Dublin City Council.**

*Free Events Booking required for Swift Workshop only through Biodiversity Parks DCC and BirdWatchIreland.*

For more information Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#) and Niamh Ni Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [BirdWatch Ireland > Home](#) and Brian Caffrey BirdWatchIreland 0579151676.

## **Kingfisher and River Bird Survey of Dublin City Waterways June to August 2014 .**

As part of the Dublin City Council and BirdWatchIreland Urban Birds Project 2014, we invite you to report sightings of key river bird species and to record them using BirdTrack.

Dublin City Council is coordinating the link up of people interested in doing sightings with local branch of BWI, Dodder Action Group, Angling Association and community groups to conduct walks and sightings. Walks and venues to be confirmed on DCC and BirdWatchIreland websites under Urban Birds Project throughout the summer.

**This event is brought to you by BirdWatec Ireland / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience. All Ages.*

For more information / if interested in participating in facilitated walk go to Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#) and Niamh Ni Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [BirdWatch Ireland > Home](#) and Brian Caffrey BirdWatchIreland 0579151676.

## **Bat Conservation Ireland / Dublin City Council Daubenton Bat Survey July 9<sup>th</sup>**

As part of Bat Conservation Ireland's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Daubenton Bat Survey we will be hosting a Daubenton Bat Talk in Liffey Valley Park from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm given by Tina Aughney an expert on Bats , followed by a walk to the Liffey River bank to train in surveying techniques. Bats are a protected species under wildlife legislation. The Daubenton Bat is known as the water bat because of its preference to roost and feed close to water such as

rivers and lakes. It is easy to identify because of all our nine resident species of bat, it is the only species that can be seen continuously skimming the water surface as it is feeding on insects. It's presence on a waterway is a good indication of biodiversity and water quality.

<http://www.batconservationireland.org/>

**This event is brought to you by Bat Conservation Ireland / Dublin City Council.**

Venue to be confirmed

*Free Event Booking required through Biodiversity Parks DCC for information contact 2223369*

*Audience. Suitable for adults and requires a commitment to participate in survey with another person according to a rota system along a stretch of suitable waterway over two late evenings in August.*

## **National Heritage Week 23- 31st August**

### **Historic Displays Bull Island UNESCO Biosphere and Dublin 23- 31st August**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **OWLS Families with young children Pond Walk and games 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> August (2pm – 4pm)**

Saturday 30th August. 2 – 4pm. Bushy Park; meet beside the tennis courts just inside the park.

Sunday 31st August. 2 - 4pm. St. Anne's Park. Meet in the corner car park, off the Howth road, opposite the causeway for Bull Island and the visitor centre

Come along to this family fun event and join the 'owls' team as they explore the life living within the pond, using nets, buckets and identification charts we will be hoping to find the likes water scorpions, dragonfly larvae, water beetles and much more interesting pond creatures. Also meet Sir Pipsqueak the Irish Smooth Newt, that squeaks. As you have a chance to hold him, learn about the life of Newts in Ireland. A family fun nature exploration event, with games focused on wildlife that live around a pond. Children participating will receive a pond identification chart to take home.

**This event is brought to you by “ OWLS” The Children's Nature Charity / Dublin City Council.**

*Audience. Families with young children*

*Booking required as spaces are limited: Contact 'mouse' on 087 32 999 36 or email [info@owls.ie](mailto:info@owls.ie)*

## **Talk On Brent Geese Bull Island Interpretative Centre date to be confirmed Sep / Oct**

*Details to be confirmed*

## **Liffey Swim BWI display on Gulls Sep 13th**

*Details to be confirmed*

## **Sea Buckthorn Battle and Bake off Early Oct 4th -13<sup>th</sup>**

Berry Picking of Sea buckthorn.

Sea buckthorn cutting with a range of volunteers/ community groups/ students on different days including Conservation Volunteers Ireland , community growers. Displays on invasive species in Ireland and how the citizen can participate in preventing their spread and eradication.

*Full details to be confirmed*

## **National Tree Day Oct 9th**

As part of a river basin management strategy to militate against the effects of climate change flooding and river bank erosion we are planning for the future by having an epic native tree planting event. We are inviting different community groups and volunteers from schools and colleges to adopt a 200m stretch of the river the Liffey banks where they can plant native trees to increase biodiversity.

*Full details to be confirmed*

## **Feeding and Gardening for Birds and Participation in Annual Garden Bird Survey. November 2014**

As part of the Dublin City Council and BirdWatchIreland Urban Birds Project 2014, we will be hosting Free illustrated talks given by experienced birdwatchers on feeding and gardening for birds, workshop on how to participate in BWI Garden Bird Survey along with demonstration on how to record sightings using BirdTrack, and practical advice on bird identification.

Venue and times to be confirmed.

*Free event with free garden posters for all attendees*

*Audience. All Ages.*

For more information Dublin City Council website Parks Page [Dublin City Council: Dublin City Parks](#) and Niamh Ni Cholmain , Biodiversity Facilitator 2223369 and [BirdWatch Ireland > Home](#) and Brian Caffrey BirdWatchIreland 0579151676.

**This event is brought to you by Bird Watch Ireland / Dublin City Council.**

**For ongoing updates on Times Venues and Booking Requirements  
Please Consult Dublin City Council Website Parks Page.  
[www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie) . All outdoor events are subject to cancellation in  
the event of extreme weather.**