



# Action for Bogs

## No.31

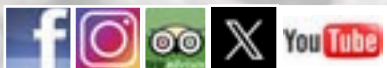
Charity Number CHY6829  
RCN 20013547

Photo: Emperor moth caterpillar © S. Doyle

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**\* Summer updates on the work of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council \***

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## Féile an Dúlra 2024

IPCC held four events to celebrate National Biodiversity Week 2024. On Saturday 18th May, walks were held on IPCC's reserves Lodge Bog in Co. Kildare and Girley Bog in Co. Meath exploring the fascinating adaptations of peatland plants. On Monday 20th May, we walked to Lullymore West reserve to discover the diversity of butterflies of this reserve. Brimstones, Holly Blues and Dingy Skippers were all observed during the walk. While we didn't see any Marsh Fritillaries during the event, the first records of this butterfly for 2024 were observed during IPCC's butterfly monitoring transect later that week. Finally, on Thursday 23rd May, IPCC hosted 'Gardening for

Biodiversity' talks in the peat and chemical free wildlife gardens at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. Féile an Dúlra, IPCC's annual festival of nature, continues over the summer - why not join the IPCC for International Bog Day on Sunday 28th July or one of the four Heritage Week events IPCC are hosting on 17th, 19th and 20th August. Learn more about upcoming events by following the IPCC on social media or visiting [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie).

Féile an Dúlra 2024 is supported by Irish Environmental Network, the Heritage Council through their Organisational Support Fund 2024 and Kildare County Council through their Festival Grant Scheme 2024.



Image © N. Madigan



Image © S. Doyle



Image © S. Doyle

## Kildare County Council's Community Grant supports the IPCC



Image © N. Madigan

IPCC thank Kildare County Council for support through their Community Grant 2024. With this funding, IPCC have purchased new signs, materials and pollinator friendly plants for the wildlife gardens at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre as well as equipment to assist staff and volunteers in managing the gardens and IPCC's reserves.



## New bogland plant swatch supported by the Community Heritage Grant

In the 1990s, IPCC developed a range of peatland educational resources



including bog flora dials to support students and teachers in identifying bogland plants. IPCC are delighted to be designing new colour photo ID swatches. With support from the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant 2024, IPCC will be publishing 500 swatches that will be offered free of charge to peatland educators nationwide as a peatland educational resource.



## Species in Focus



Red-necked Footman at Lullymore West Reserve © L.Cassery

The Red-necked Footman (*Atolmis rubricollis*) has long black wings and a red collar. Primarily found in woodland, it is on the wing in June and July and may fly during both night and day. The caterpillars feed on lichens and algae growing on trees. This distinctive moth was spotted in a scrubby area at Lullymore West and was a new record for the reserve.



## Summer conservation grazing donkeys introduced to Lullymore West Nature Reserve

IPCC were delighted to welcome donkeys Ted and Daisy to Lullymore West this June in a collaboration with My Lovely Horse Rescue. After a year without grazing on the reserve in 2023, the pair are doing important work eating back some of the competitive grasses and improving the habitat for the Marsh Fritillary and other butterflies. The Marsh Fritillary is Ireland's only Annex listed insect and the caterpillars feed only on the leaves of Devil's-bit scabious. This plant is abundant on Lullymore West but grazing is crucial to

ensure it is not taken over by purple moor-grass and scrub. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped us put up a temporary electric fence and a shelter for the donkeys on the reserve.

**IPCC would like to acknowledge Dublin Zoo and My Lovely Horse Rescue who are collaborating with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council to maintain the habitat of Lullymore West Nature Reserve for the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly.**



Images from top: Ted and Daisy grazing at Lullymore West Nature Reserve, volunteers putting up a temporary fence for the donkeys and Marsh Fritillary butterfly © N. Madigan, Sorcha Doyle and Lyndsey Casserly

## Heritage Organisational Support Fund 2024



Image © S. Doyle

IPCC acknowledge support from the Heritage Council Heritage Organisational Support Fund 2024. This supports the work of IPCC's Conservation and Education Officers in managing and monitoring IPCC's reserves and delivering our education programme. The fund is also supporting an energy audit of the Bog of Allen Nature Centre and software to support new models of working.



## IPCC's Community engagement and education programme



Image © T. Whyte

IPCC have been busy with our peatland education programme facilitating visits at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre and outreach workshops through the Heritage in Schools Scheme. We've also been delivering primary school biodiversity workshops in collaboration with Meath County Council and hosted a number of information stands including at Dublin Zoo's Native Species Weekend.

## Peat probing with Killyconny Bog Group



Measuring the depth of Killyconny Bog SAC with Killyconny Bog Project © S. Doyle

It's great to be working with Killyconny Bog Project again to estimate the carbon stored in Killyconny Bog SAC. Last year, IPCC worked with the group to estimate the carbon stored in one lobe of the bog which was estimated at 178,399tC. We have now completed peat depth measurements for the second lobe across three days of peat probing with volunteers from Killyconny Bog Project. The centre of the lobe was measured at over 13.6m deep!

## Species monitoring on IPCC's peatland nature reserves

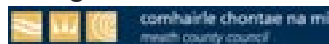
Supported by volunteers and students on work placement IPCC's annual species monitoring programme is well underway for another year. On Lullymore West, weekly butterfly and monthly bumblebee surveys as part of the National Biodiversity Data Centre's monitoring schemes are ongoing.

On Lodge Bog, weekly monitoring transects for the Large Heath butterfly are being carried out and a habitat condition assesment was completed on 24th June. Daily monitoring has also been ongoing for a pair of curlew which returned to Lodge Bog in April, although sightings are down this year. During the monitoring, 39 other bird

species have been recorded on the bog or surrounding area since March.

With funding support from Meath County Council through their Heritage Grant Scheme 2024 on Girley Bog a breeding snipe survey was completed in May and June. While no breeding snipe behaviour was recorded, other records during the survey included Water Rail and Grasshopper Warbler.

Supported by Kildare County Council through their Heritage Grant Scheme at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, IPCC have also been busy updating the species list for the peat free wildlife gardens.



Common Blue, Lullymore West © S.Doyle



Carrying out a habitat assesment for the Large Heath © S.Doyle



White/buff-tailed bumblebee, Lullymore West © S.Doyle

## You can take Action for Bogs by taking any of these steps



Save an Acre of Bogland Support IPCC's mission to purchase endangered and unique peatlands. Purchase a symbolic share in 1/16th acre of bog and receive a certificate to commemorate your work in saving Irish bogs. **€45 (PC116)**

Help Restore a Bog. Stop damaged bogs leaking greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Your donation will be used to block drains, monitor water levels in bogs and undertake *Sphagnum* moss transplantation. **€50 (PC161)**



**STOP EMIGRATION OF WILDLIFE Save Our Irish Boglands**



Donation to the Save the Bogs Campaign. Donations to the campaign are used to make a planning observation in favour of bogs or to train volunteers. **€20 PC10**

Bog of Allen Nature Centre Visitor Pass. Receive unlimited access to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Gardens and Nature Reserves in Kildare. Pass valid for 1 year, for either 5 adults or a family of 2 adults and 4 children **€25 PC1138**



**Help Save Our Boglands  
JOIN IPCC NOW!**



Photo: © C. O'Connell

I would like to join as a Friend of the Bog (tick category)

- Single €40
- Joint/Family/Teacher €45
- Unwaged €27

I enclose my cheque/postal order payable to IPCC, or, please debit my Debit Card/Visa/Mastercard account for €.....

Card number.....

Signature .....

Expiry date .....

Security Code (last 3 digits above signature panel) .....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....

Address .....

Tel: ..... Date of Birth: .....

Post to: IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare



**DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT....  
Be an IPCC Volunteer**



Photo: © P. Farrell

Take your first step to a career in conservation by volunteering on one of IPCC's nature reserves. Gain skills in bird and butterfly surveys, water table monitoring, site management and peat free gardening. Take action on climate change by getting involved in IPCC's conservation projects such as *Sphagnum* moss transfer. E-mail [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie) or phone 045-860133 to get your name on our volunteer list.

**Bog of Allen Nature Centre**  
In the heart of the bog and with bogs in our hearts

**Enjoy**  
a trip down memory lane  
Tea in the Gardens

**Discover** Wildlife Gardens  
Folk Kitchen  
Bog Museum

**Explore**  
Bog of Allen Nature Trail

Guided tours and tea in the gardens for groups year round €10 per person. Group Discounts Available

Located on the R414 between Allenwood & Rathangan in Lullymore, Co. Kildare Tel: 045-860133  
E-mail: [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie) Website: [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)

**A Love of Bogs  
Lasts Longer  
than a Lifetime**

**Giving in memory**  
a tribute to someone you love

For a free copy of our guide to leaving a legacy, please call Nuala Madigan on 045-860133, or write to IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293 or e-mail a request to us at [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)