

## Biodiversity

### Photo-Postcard Competition

We want to highlight the wonderful nature to be found in County Galway and we want your help to do it. So get your camera and get snapping, we want to see the biodiversity of County Galway through your eyes.



An exhibition of the photographs will be held in the Galway Public Library during Heritage week (August 28th to September 3rd) and the winning photographs will be used to produce a set of postcards depicting the Biodiversity of County Galway.

From landscapes to seascapes, under water or underground, mountain ledges to river banks and everywhere in between, let your imagination go wild! Then send us your snaps of your favourite plants and animals from County Galway. Whether you're into blue bells or butterflies, dandelions or dung beetles, we want you to help us showcase the great variety of life in County Galway. So get snapping!

If you do not have access to your own camera, the 'People and Nature' Project has a number of digital cameras available to borrow. Contact the project manager.

Photos should if possible be mounted on a cardboard mount and should not measure more than A3 size (29.7 x 42cm). Entries should be sent to the People and Nature Project Manager with details of the photograph and photographer. Entries will be judged in three categories; Professional, amateur and young people (under 14). Max of two photos per entrant.

Closing Date is August 18th.

***If you have an idea for a local nature event or project please let us know and we will be happy to help out in any way we can.***

## Training and Education

It is a priority objective of the 'People and Nature' project to increase knowledge and understanding and to promote best practice among all people whose work or activities may influence local biodiversity.

Thus, the project will be running training and information sessions at various locations in County Galway throughout the year. The training and education programme is particularly aimed at Council staff, FAS and RSS workers as well as local community and heritage groups and Golden Mile and Tidy Towns entrants.

If you require advice or information on any subject relating to nature in County Galway, please contact us at the address below and we will be delighted to help out in any way we can.

### Contact us

If you have any queries about any aspect of the People and Nature project, please contact the Project manager,

**Elaine O'Riordan**

**Applied Ecology Unit,**

**Centre for Environmental Science, NUI, Galway**

**Phone 091 493863**

**email [galwaybap@hotmail.com](mailto:galwaybap@hotmail.com)**

### Our Sponsors

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# People & Nature

## The Galway County Biodiversity Project

EVENTS  
AND  
ACTIVITIES  
2006

## What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity simply means the variety of all the life on earth and the different ways in which all living things exist and interact with each other and the world around them

Biodiversity includes all the different types of plants, animals and micro-organisms as well as the different habitats and ecosystems.

Biodiversity is essential for life as we depend on a healthy environment to provide us with the natural resources we need such as food, water, fuel, medicine



## People and Nature

People and Nature – the Galway County Biodiversity Project  
People and Nature is an action of the Galway County Heritage Plan 2004 – 2008 supported by Galway County Council, NUI, Galway, Galway Rural Development, Galway County Heritage Forum and the Heritage Council. The aim of the project is to create a greater awareness and appreciation of the habitats and species in County Galway through biodiversity education and training as well as by gathering knowledge and promoting research.

## Events and Activities



The People and Nature will be holding a number of events throughout the year. All activities will be well advertised in local press so keep an eye out! Further information is available from the project manager (details overleaf). All activities are free of charge and open to everyone.

## 10th June - World Oceans Day

### **Sand Dunes/Machair- Roundstone**

Melinda Swann and members of the beach restoration committee lead a guided walk to point out the special features of Dogs Bay and Gurteen sand dunes and machair grassland. Meet at the beach carpark at 4pm.

## 13th, 20th, 27th June 8-10 p.m.

### **Organic gardening course**

Introduction to Organic Gardening course in The Orchard Centre, Gort. Course to run over three consecutive Tuesday evenings with Jim Cronin. Places limited, please book early with 'People and Nature' project manager

## 1st July - Nature Walk

### **Guide Course Clarinbridge**

If you are interested in leading or organising guided walks in your area, this one day introductory course with Gordon D'Arcy will give you the skills and information you need to show off your local natural heritage. To book a place, contact the project manager.



## 25th July

### **Celebrating International Bog Day**

Guided bog walk at Clochar na gCon/Bealacoan Bog Nature Reserve, near Inverin with Aonghus O'Donnail Conservation Ranger. Meeting at the reserve at 2pm.

## 29th July - Whales and Dolphins

Illustrated talk about the whales and dolphins of the County Galway coastline followed by a chance to practice whale and dolphin watching from the Spiddal shore with Simon Berrow and Joanne O'Brien. Contact the project manager to book.

## 26th Aug-3rd Sept - Heritage Week

Photograph Exhibition in the Galway County Library of photos entered in the Biodiversity photo competition. Starts Monday 28th Sept.

## 27th August -

### **Biodiversity family day at 2pm**

#### **Connemara National Park**

Family day out at Connemara National Park to celebrate heritage week. Biodiversity Puppet show, guided walks and plenty to see and do for all ages.

## 1st October - Autumn Woodland Celebration 2pm

A family day out in the beautiful surroundings of Portumna Forest Park and Portumna Castle and Gardens. Guided nature walks, talks and childrens activities.



## 2nd - 8th October

### **October National Recycling Week**

Composting Demonstrations, workshops with Jim Cronin. Details to be confirmed.

## Batwatch

We hope to set up a number of local bat groups to monitor bat-life throughout the county. No special knowledge required as training and equipment will be provided.

If you would like to get involved in setting up a local bat survey for your area just contact the project manager (contact details on reverse).

