

Headford Environment Group

Headford Environment Group aims to raise awareness of environmental issues in our community, by promoting initiatives which highlight the value of our natural and built heritage.

Over the last ten years we have carried out numerous projects from a Climate Change Conference, to establishing the Community Orchard. This year much of our work is directly in accordance with the Headford Biodiversity Plan, developing our pollinator trail, Community Orchard and Sandybanks Lane biodiversity walk. Watch out for our events on Facebook, or contact us by email for more info.



We are delighted to be able to present these free public workshops, funded by the Community Foundation of Ireland, as part of our project to develop Sandybanks Lane as a Biodiversity Walk.

Each workshop is being led by a specialist to give us, as potential citizen scientists, the benefit of the best advice. However they are also designed to be fun, family-friendly events for everyone to enjoy.



Headford Environment Group



Headford Environment Group

Headford Golden Mile

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Sandybanks Lane
Headford
Summer 2019



Free Nature
Events for All
the Family!



Headford Environment Group

Sandybanks Lane Biodiversity Amenity

Our workshops will take place in Sandybanks Lane (off Bridge Street), Headford and will follow the route of Lowery's Stream. Along the path you will see naturally occurring flora and fauna, in addition to plants added by the Environment Group over the last few years. The lane includes a wildflower meadow planted by the Environment Group in 2016. A well-used path leading out of the town, Sandybanks is being continuously enhanced to support more biodiversity. Over time, it will become an even more valuable amenity for both the people and the wildlife of Headford to enjoy.



Citizen Science

Citizen science is a term used to describe when members of the public record biodiversity. People are invited to take part in national wildlife audits such as the Irish Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, the Spring Flower Survey, etc. At least one of our workshops will include instructions on how to input into the national biodiversity database in order to facilitate citizen science whenever possible.

Summer 2019 Schedule

BUMBLEBEE IDENTIFICATION with Michelle Larkin

Find out how to recognise different bee species, use free online resources, and learn how to organize a transept.

Michelle is a PhD researcher in the Stanley Ecology Lab based at NUI Galway studying the ecology, monitoring and conservation of pollinators in semi-natural grasslands. **Venue: St. Fursa's Hall (then Sandybanks)**

Sat 25th May at 10.30am -1pm



AQUATIC ANIMALS: INVESTIGATING LIFE UNDER THE WATER with Heather Lally

Ever wondered which spineless creatures are lurking in Lowery's Stream? Explore the diversity of insects and animals living there through conducting kick samples and experiencing up close encounters. Heather's work looks at how aquatic insects are important bio-indicators of good and bad water quality. *Dr Lally is a lecturer in freshwater ecology and biology at GMIT.*

Sat 8th June at 10.30am-1pm



KNOW YOUR WILDFLOWERS with Elaine O'Riordan

An introduction to the wildflowers of the Sandybanks Lane. Elaine's workshops encourage people to discover the wonder of our native Irish wild flowers and foster an interest in and awareness of our living natural heritage. Come along to learn some basic skills to identify the wildflowers along the way.

Elaine O'Riordan is an ecologist currently working in the Zoology Department, NUI Galway.

Sat 15th June at 10.30am -1pm



THE SECRET WORLD OF SMALL MAMMALS

with Ruth Hanniffy

Could you be a mammal detective? Come along to discover which of our furry friends live in Sandybanks. Ruth will demonstrate the key role of mammals in a healthy ecosystem and highlight the wonders of the natural world on our doorstep. *Ruth Hanniffy is a conservation biologist working with the Vincent Wildlife Trust and based in the Zoology Department of NUI Galway*

Sat 6th July at 10.30 -1pm



LIVING WITH BUTTERFLIES, IDENTIFICATION, RECORDING, WILDLIFE AREAS AND GARDENING with Lynda and Chris Huxley

Having been involved for many years in recording butterfly distribution in Mayo, Lynda and Chris will share their knowledge of butterflies and how we can identify and nurture them.

Lynda Huxley was instrumental in establishing the Green Campus movement at GMIT in Castlebar, and founder of Swift Conservation Ireland.

Sat 3rd Aug at 10.30am-1pm



HEDGEROWS - NETWORKS FOR NATURE

with Janice Fuller

Janice will talk us through which varieties of plants we have in the lane, and the importance of our hedgerows as wildlife corridors for many of our native species.

Dr. Fuller is a consultant ecologist based in Galway. She provides biodiversity and heritage training to communities and was the author of Headford's First Biodiversity Plan.

Sat 14th Sept at 11am-1pm

