

Biodiversity Week in Merlin Woods 17th-25th May

Friends of Merlin Woods will run a week of free events celebrating the Biodiversity of Merlin Park Woods Galway. Over the last couple of years they have photographed and supplied data of the different species which inhabit the city's woodland from the red squirrel, 17 species of Irish butterflies, over 40 species of birds and much more to the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Ireland.

Guided walks will be given explaining the different aspects of Merlin Woods interesting habitat and how wonderful it is to have this urban woodland on the doorsteps of the City of the Tribes.

The launch of Merlin Park Woods Biodiversity Week will take place in Ballybane Library at 3pm on Saturday 17th of May. An exhibition of photographs will be on display for the week of the event, printing which was kindly sponsored by Cantec Print Merchants Road Galway. They are also delighted to have John Lusby, from Birdwatch Ireland to launch the event for us on the day.

On Sunday 18th of May they will team up with John Lusby Galway Branch of Birdwatch Ireland to celebrate National Dawn Chorus day. This will be a very early start of 4.30am but a spectacular experience not to be missed and a very popular event last year. Meeting point will be at the Council compound just past the playground in Doughiska (Merlin City Woods) Park.

Monday 19th May 7pm a woodland walk guided by Sean Purtill who will discuss the history of the woodland trees, and the woodland plants meeting at the Council compound.

Tuesday 20th May 8.30pm Kate Mc Aney from Vincent Wildlife Trust will give a short talk on bats species and then a walk to discover the species of bats using the woods. Meeting point will be the Ard Family Resource Centre.

Wednesday 21st May 7pm Local historian Norbert Sheerin will bring us on a journey to the past visiting different historic locations within the woodlands. Meeting point Administration building Merlin Park Hospital.

Thursday 22nd May 7pm Nature and Photography lead by Noel Barbour who is a longtime photographer of wildlife and who will give tips and advice on how to get the best shots of wildlife. Meeting at the Council compound

Friday 23rd May 1pm Butterfly Walk with Friends of Merlin Woods exploring the butterflies that inhabit the woodland, and the plants and flowers which are vital to their survival. Meeting point Administration building Merlin Park Hospital

Sunday 25th May starting 10am Creating the Mandala led by artist Sharon Lynch, using only natural materials found in the woodland, a beautiful piece of artwork will be created, fun for all the family. This will be an all-day event where people can come and join in at anytime. Bring a picnic, enjoy the relaxing atmosphere !!!

Friends of Merlin Woods is a community led environmental voluntary group who are delighted to have the knowledge and expertise of all leaders for the week and who have given their time free of charge ...Please come along and enjoy some of the wonderful things the woodlands has to offer.

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