

SESSION 3 – A TOUR OF THE WILDLIFE & HABITATS OF SLIGO:

IDEAS FOR TIDYTOWNS

Sarah: Amazing how many unique and special species we have here in Sligo. Do you have any ideas as to how Tidy Towns groups can enhance their work by incorporating the promotion/protection of these into their work and applications?

www.pollinators.ie is a great tool for mapping individual gardens and also local community areas. A great TT initiative might be to encourage all members and wider community to map and for TT to do annual reports on mapped activity - we'd be happy to help!

IDEAS FOR TIDYTOWNS TO SHARE WILDLIFE NEWS:

Share sightings – share these

Fact of the month – Gannets hit water at 60 mph and have air sacs so their skulls don't implode!

Prize for first in your community to see a swallow/ whooper swan/ salmon

Photo competition

Share photos on social media.

Food Calendar - Elderberry champagne, Wild Garlic pesto, sloe gin, juniper, seaweed scavenging.

Info boards, scavenger hunts – laminated sheets for children to find things

Citizen science projects:

Hog surveys, ladybird surveys

www.biodiversityireland.ie www.pollinators.ie

Reporting sightings and invasive species

Walks & Talks

Guided dawn chorus

Bat walks

Trip cameras to catch pictures of wildlife animals (see badger footage on our website & FB page)

Enhance areas:

Marram Grass planting,

Link woodlands,

plant native hedges,

Provide food - plant pollinator friendly, let dandelions grow,

Don't mow, let it grow – for your amenity grassland or your front garden

Notes from the chat during last night's wonderful tour.

Slide IDs:

- Bee orchid
- Marsh fritillary butterfly - Irelands only protected insect.
- Golden plover
- Sundew
- Bluebell and primrose - Irish bluebell - nodding habit, with flowers all on one side with white pollen. Spanish more upright and flowers lighter, and pollen is blue!
- Strawberry tree
- Cowslip,
- sloes on blackthorn all in bloom in white, fox, mountain ash, pyramidal Orchid

Blackthorn flowers first then leaves, Hawthorn - leaves first then flowers.

<https://sligowalks.ie/walk-type/lakeside-walks/>

<https://www.rte.ie/news/newslens/2021/0423/1211719-curlew/> - public urged to report sightings of curlew.