



DRUMMIN BOG PROJECT

FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER

December 2023



During 2023, we're excited to share sphagnum moss is growing again at Drummin Bog



Lizard, newt and frog expert, Rob Gandola, of the Herpetologist Society of Ireland, leading a pond-dipping exercise which revealed excellent water quality at Drummin Bog. Such activities are popular for adults and children alike and a volunteer lizard monitoring programme will be developed for 2024. Let us know if you want to be involved.

Our Mission and Objectives

The chief objectives of the Bog Project are:

- To restore the peatland site to an active peat-forming bog which is the only example of a raised bog in the South East of Ireland. Drummin Bog is near Drummond, St. Mullins and Carlow's beautiful Barrow River
- To develop the bog and adjacent woodland as an amenity and educational resource
- Creative strategies will also be employed alongside science activities to engage the hearts and minds of the local community to celebrate this unique natural heritage feature of South Carlow.
- Recording local cultural and folk histories of people who have long interacted with Drummin Bog

Overall, these science and cultural activities will develop Drummin Bog as an important South Carlow conservation, educational and amenity area for the local community and beyond.

The Drummin Bog Project is led by a volunteer committee.

Highlights of the Year

It has been a busy year for the Drummin Bog Project, with a range of restoration works and creative-led community activities. There is increasing involvement and support from people of all ages living in the area and from those with diverse interests. All are helping highlight vital peatland restoration and our natural heritage.

Restoration work

With initial areas of the bog drains being blocked following an NPWS grant in 2021, hydrogeologist James Lalor has been pleased with ongoing data analyses that indicate increased water retention in the bog. See the new areas of sphagnum moss growing above. Monitoring station data will continue to provide evidence of Drummin Bog's restoration.

Invasive species removal continues with the removal of rhododendron plants.

We have also installed more signage regarding the dangers of the bog.

A felling application to convert surrounding Coillte forest toward Continuous Cover Forestry management is also in process with forester Manus Crowley, EnFor.

New Drummin Bog Oral History Library

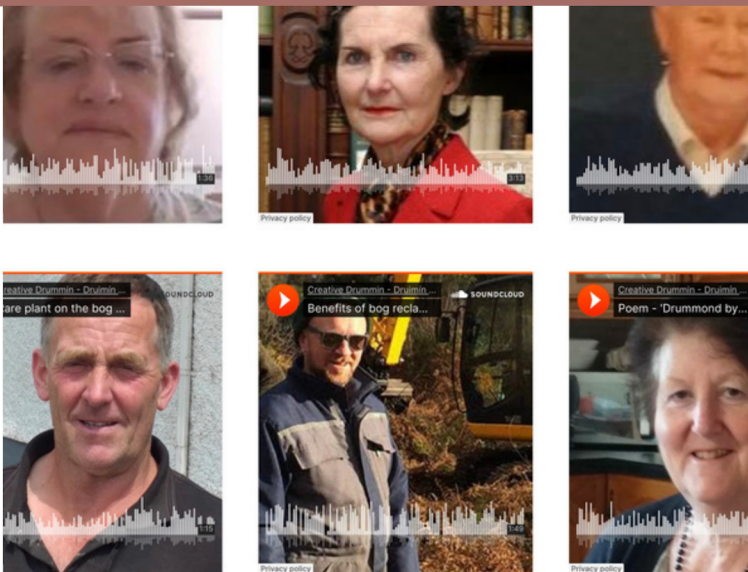


During Heritage Week, on 12 August 2023, The Drummin Bog Project voluntary committee were delighted to host our first event to celebrate the new online Drummin Bog Oral History Library.

[Read more on the blog.](#)

DRUMMIN BOG PROJECT FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS - overview

Community Activities over 2023



More on the new Drummin Bog Oral History Library

Funded by The Heritage Council, the Drummin Bog Oral History Library contains and preserves the recollections and memories of individuals who grew up or lived near Drummin Bog.

Oral Historian Adrian Roche of [TheHistoryTrail.ie](https://www.thehistorytrail.ie) made the oral history recordings for the library over 2023. Adrian is well known for collecting oral histories across Ireland over the last decade. People who had recollections of Drummin Bog were interviewed by Adrian. He also interviewed one of the scientists, hydrogeologist James Lalor, who has carried out ongoing surveys at Drummin Bog.

Our grateful and sincere thanks to all the participants who shared their stories and recollections and to Adrian Roche for his sensitive and careful approach to developing a superb Oral History Library of Drummin Bog, Drummond area and the River Barrow. Thanks also to Carlow Heritage Officer, Eoin O'Sullivan.

[New: Listen to short clips online](#)



The History Trail



Funded by

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Arts Council Ireland Natural Habitats | Gnáthóga Nádúrtha programme - for Carlow, Kildare, Meath peatlands

Developing from previous Creative Drummin projects from 2017, the Drummin Bog Project was delighted to be part of a significant 2022 Arts Council Invitation to Collaborate Scheme, led out by Carlow Local Authority Arts Office, with Kildare and Meath Art Services, to further develop inclusive creative community engagement for 3 peatland habitats in these counties. Thanks to Carlow Arts Officer Sinead Dowling, Creative Ireland Arts Officer Aileen Nolan, creative training partners (FutureFocus 21C & Haumea Ecoversity), and all involved across the three counties.

The development programme involved integrated site visits, collaborative county community mapping, ecoliteracy training and mentoring for creatives for the three counties, and exploratory creative-led community events in each area during Autumn 2023.

[Read more on the blog](#)



Gnáthóga Nádúrtha / Natural Habitats · textures, tastes and colours of the bog ·



Creative-led community events were recently held at Drummin Bog (Carlow), Girley Bog (Meath) and Ballydermot Bog (Kildare)


Finding Dragons on Drummin Bog

Developing from the other peatlands involved in the Gnáthóga Nádúrtha programme (thank you Dr. Kate Flood, Girley Bog Meithal), we were delighted to host Rob Gandola from the Herpetologist Society of Ireland (HSI), the leading NGO for monitoring our native Irish herpetofauna – frogs, newts and yes...lizards!!

Rob presented an explanation of lizard natural history, their needs and habitats, followed by fieldwork to identify good basking sites and microhabitats. Rob showed us how to survey Drummin Bog for these special small creatures. We also examined Drummin Bog's pond – and numerous dragonflies and indicator insects show Drummin Bog's water quality is very good.

In 2024 we hope to organise a roster for citizen science lizard & newt monitoring. Volunteers are needed, are you interested? Drop us a line on our contact page at [Drumminbog.com](https://www.drumminbog.com).



[Read more on the blog](#)



Lovely Lizards and How to Find them:

Survey Techniques for *Zootoca vivipara*

R. Gandola

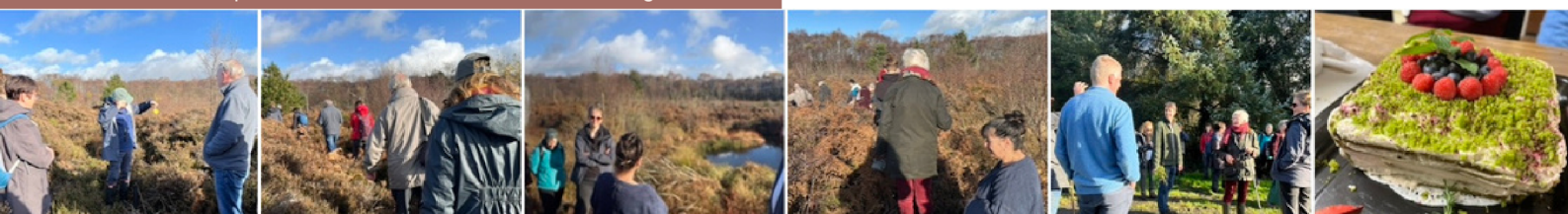


Future Plans for 2024

- **Ongoing Drain Blocking Work and Community Engagement** – for County Carlow Community Climate Action grant application being developed
- **To develop a Strategic Plan to guide our future direction** – Local Authorities Water Programme – LAWPRO grant applied for.
- **Development of Lizard survey route over the bog.**
- **Development of a Volunteer Team for the Drummin Bog Project** and policy for the safe involvement of volunteers in work on the bog.
- **Further development of the Gnáthóga Nádúrtha Natural Habitat programme between the Local Authority Arts Offices, Creative Ireland and creative practitioners in Carlow, Meath and Kildare.**
- **Bog Rosemary Song with composer Carole Nelson and students and staff of local Drummond National School**

Other work in 2023

The Drummin Bog Project Committee organised visits to other peatland restoration sites, a visit by Drummond National School for National Biodiversity Week in May, made a presentation to the Carlow Public Participation Network PPN, & tours of the bog



We appreciate your fantastic support over 2023:

Thank You to all Drummond & St. Mullins area supporters and Joe Moylan for assistance with bog data monitoring & hydrogeologist James Lalor

**Pat Murphy & Drummond Hall Committee
Drummond National School and composer Carole Nelson**

To all those who purchased patches of Drummin Bog with our first-ever fundraiser campaign (which we are repeating for 2024) and to our donors

To those who generously gave their time to the Oral History Library & Adrian Roche, Oral Historian, The HistoryTrail.ie

Rob Gandola, The Irish Herpetological Society

To Carlow Local Authority Arts Office, Kildare and Meath Art Services & Arts Council Ireland 'Invitation to Collaborate Scheme' Award for Gnáthóga Nádúrtha | Natural Habitats programme, to development & education partners FutureFocus 21c, Haumea Ecovercity & to all creative practitioners involved; Creative Ireland Carlow; ArtLinks & Artlinks 2023 artist Mairead Holohan for 'Slow Time on the Bog Sketchbooks', artist and Gaeilgeoir Phoebe Cope

Carlow Local Authority Heritage Office & Eoin O'Sullivan

County Carlow Community Support Fund: for insurance & IT costs

Tom Murphy & Company Accountants, Carlow, since 2017

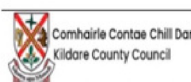
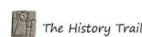
Carlow LEADER for their ongoing support

Coillte and forester Manus Crowley, EnFor

Local media, including KCLR radio and The Nationalist

County Carlow Environmental Network CCEN

Recent Natural Habitats | Gnáthóga Nádúrtha gathering at Drummond Hall



Fuair an tionscnaimh seo fíor-dheontas ó Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitúil Cheatharlach, Clár Forbartha Tuaithe atá maoineithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann faoi Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe Éireann 2014-2020 agus ag Ciste Talamhalachta na hÉirpea d'Fhorbairt Tuaithe; iníheistíú na hÉirpea i Limistéir Tuaithe.

This project received grant aid from Carlow Local Community Development Committee under the Rural Development Programme Ireland 2014-2020 which is financed by the Irish Government and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in Rural Areas.



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas