

# The Ring of Gullion

A Newsletter for the Ring of Gullion  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and  
The Landscape Partnership Scheme

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**Ring of Gullion**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



# Successful First Year of Dragons in the Hills Project

The Dragons in the Hills project is a three-year community focused project, based in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council Area funded by the National Lottery for Heritage Fund. The project is a collaboration between the Amphibian and Reptile Group UK, the Herpetological Society Ireland and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Since April 2020, at the start of COVID 19 lockdowns, the project has been based in the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Despite the challenges the project managed to work with school children, community volunteer groups, artist, and citizen scientists. In its first year, the project has been working towards creating and maintaining habitat, gathering baseline monitoring data on reptiles and amphibians, but most of all reawakening local people's love for their natural landscape and its wildlife.

The project has engaged with local schools through a series of online talks based on nature and biodiversity around us, and worked with local artists to run an Arts Competition for young people.

During the past year the project has delivered several, habitat creation schemes. At Bluebell Lane Glamping dead wood from local felling operations was upcycled to create basking opportunities and hibernation spots; two local community groups, the ARC volunteer group at the National Trust's Derrymore House outside Bessbrook, and the volunteer group at the An Tobar Wellness Centre, have been creating and maintaining freshwater ponds, a key habitat which can be lacking for our native amphibians. In this work the project has been adding to the fantastic habitat restoration work already being achieved at both sites. The incredible contribution to biodiversity in the area made by Rosemary Mullholland of Derrymore, and Margaret and Kathleen Finnegan of An Tobar cannot be understated. If you are not familiar with both sites, we strongly recommend you plan a visit to get to experience some of South Armagh's natural splendour.



The project also led guided walks and tours of the local biodiversity hotspots in the area including Camlough Mountain, Tievecrom, Slieve Carrive and Slieve Gullion; and delivered numerous successful citizen science training days, equipping volunteers with the skills and confidence they needed to start collecting that all critical monitoring data for our native reptiles and amphibians.

In the fifty years from 1970 – 2020 there was only one single independent record of a common lizard and just five smooth newt records from the Ring of Gullion. In the last year, this incredible citizen science project has created over 150 records of native reptiles and amphibians in the local area. The Dragons in the Hills Project has also created an identification guide on the amphibians and reptiles of Northern Ireland in Irish and English to help with surveying.

A wonderful start to what we hope will be a continued trend of spotting and reporting local records to the project social media groups or direct to recordpool .

[www.recordpool.org.uk/](http://www.recordpool.org.uk/).

Dr Josh Twining was employed as Project Officer 3 days a week to help reconnect local communities with their natural landscapes through the conservation of reptiles and amphibians.

The AONB and Geopark Team would like to thank Josh for all his hard work over the years working in the Ring of Gullion and to wish him well with his future career. We extend a warm welcome to Ryan Montgomery to his new post. Ryan can be contacted on:

[ryan.montgomery@arguk.org](mailto:ryan.montgomery@arguk.org)

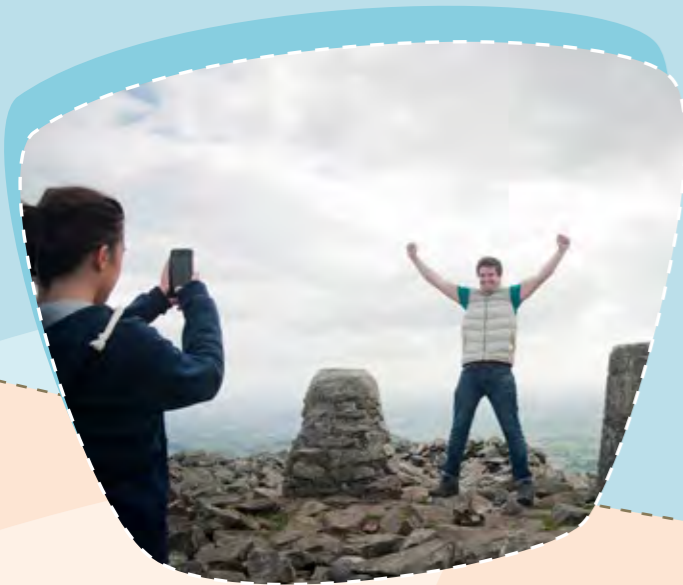
If you want to get involved with the project or learn more, please check out their Facebook page at:

[Dragons in the Hills www.facebook.com/groups/252179835829189](https://www.facebook.com/Dragons-in-the-Hills).





## Are you a Tour Guide or a Film Maker?



Are you aware that activities at Historical State Care Sites requires an application? Private, commercial or corporate events/tours at State Care sites such as Slieve Gullion Passage Tomb(cairn), Moyry Castle, Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone and Killeavy Old Churches require an activity application. An application is also required for filming taking place at the sites.

Applications can be found:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-care-monuments-activity-booking-forms>

This operational decision has been taken to enable Historic Environment Division to prioritise the protection and conservation of the State Care Monuments for which they are responsible. All applications must be submitted at least 20 working days before the requested activity date.



## Tourism Providers Training Success Promises Culture Boost.

A cluster of twenty Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) tourism providers from Newry, Mourne & Down District Council have successfully completed the first tier of a Tourism Training Programme. Tier one of the training, funded through the Atlantic CultureScape project, involved four masterclasses that will help tourism providers on their journey to creating high quality ICH Visitor Experiences.

The Tiered Tourism Training Programme for ICH tourism providers launched in October 2020 and is being delivered by Runda Travel LTD. Masterclass topics covered included: Understanding and Integrating Intangible Cultural Heritage into Tourism Planning and Experiences, ICH Marketing Opportunities, Delivery of Quality ICH customer Experiences and Production of Promotional Material for ICH Experiences. All twenty of the ICH providers now move on to Tier Two, which will involve mentoring and extra support based on each of their individual business needs.

Following that, Tier Three will include comprehensive market focused testing of each evolved ICH experience, before providers can move onto launching their sellable ICH Experiences later in 2021.

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Experience Collection in the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) includes:

- Stained Glass Art experience
- Irish Lace making experience
- Boleying; turf butter and wild goat's mountain experience
- Wood turning using traditional methods experience

The Training Programme and development of ICH Experiences are being funded through the Atlantic CultureScape project which is co-financed by the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme through the European Regional Development Fund.

To find out more visit [www.atlanticculturescape.eu](http://www.atlanticculturescape.eu).

## Gullion-A-ing around Gullion

Gullion A Tours is a new tour guiding group based in the Ring of Gullion. The A doesn't just stand for the A-star level of tours you'll receive but also the Ring of Gullion Ambassadors who formed and run the group.

They have gathered together a group of passionate, local Ambassadors, to combine their diverse skills and talents in promoting the Ring of Gullion to anyone wishing to explore the diversity of the area, be they visitor or local. They provide walking and bus tours, as well as immersive experiences in the local culture and landscape. The guides hold certified Tour Guiding qualifications, facilitated by the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership; ensuring high professional standards.

The aim of Gullion A Tours is to showcase the Ring of Gullion through a diverse range of off-the-beaten-track, walking and bus tours for the adventurous explorer. The Ring of Gullion has so many hidden treasures and is the last, best kept secret, destination in Ireland; which will not disappoint visitors. It is very well placed as a short break destination, located just off the Belfast/Dublin corridor. Gullion A Tours cater for a wide range of walks, from the Sacred sites of Urney, or Killeavy old church, to the Plantation Border villages of Forkhilland Bessbrook, and to the townland from which your ancestors emigrated.

If exploring history, woodland mindfulness or foraging, are more to your taste, our guides can create a bespoke tour for you. Gullion A Tours are working collaboratively with other businesses in the Gullion area to provide accommodation and entertainment for visitors who wish to extend their stay and explore further.

Gullion A Tours are ready and waiting to welcome you to the mystical Ring of Gullion. Come and join them on one of their walking tours to explore your area with fresh eyes.

Our email address [gullionatours@outlook.com](mailto:gullionatours@outlook.com).

They can also be found on Facebook and Instagram @ [gullionatours](#), why not follow them to see what they have to offer.





## Local Community Learn Building Techniques in Roundhouse Replica Build

The building of a replica Iron Age Roundhouse was the key component of a 'Traditional Building Skills' project for the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase (RoGLPS). The purpose of this project was to train groups in the traditional building skills required to work with natural woodland materials, so that these skills aren't lost from the Ring of Gullion area.

The Roundhouse replica is situated in a clearing at Bluebell Lane Glamping near Mullaghbane. The size of the Roundhouse is modelled on the post holes of a 'guard house' found in an archaeological excavation of nearby Dorsey Entrenchment. Newry Mourne and Down District Council appointed Clive Lyttle, Welig Heritage Crafts to deliver training in building techniques to group of volunteers through the winter of 2020 and spring of 2021. The training covered building techniques wood preservation (charring), upright posts installation, wall installation, vertical staves and weaving wood; and wattle and daub.

**Check out the Ring of Gullion AONB website for information on events happening in the Roundhouse in September.**

**To find out more about the location of the Roundhouse, visit [www.bluebell-lane.com](http://www.bluebell-lane.com)**



## Bessbrook Pond Field Wildlife

Michael Deen, a Sustainable Development Masters student at Queens University Belfast from Newry, joined the Ring of Gullion Partnership for his 8-week work placement in early 2020. During his placement, he worked in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, developing a plan to regenerate Bessbrook Pond, thereby improving the area for the local community and biodiversity.

During his research, Michael interviewed 10 local stakeholders to examine local thoughts, opinions on the biodiversity of Bessbrook Park and its pond. The interviewees who participated in the research were selected on the basis that they represent the views of local stakeholder organisations and groups.

Michael's research highlighted that stakeholders appreciated the pond field for many reasons, including its aesthetic qualities, the beautiful surrounding landscape; the open water and green space; the wildlife it supports; in addition to the historic heritage of the site. Historically, the pond was a vital element of Bessbrook Mill, providing it with hydroelectricity, and the Bleach Green where linen was bleached along the river. Stakeholders also expressed an appreciation for the Flax Flower sculpture located in the pond; a reminder of the heritage of the flax flowers importance to the mill's operations. However, concerns expressed by interviewees about the site are mostly anti-social behaviours, including littering, dog fouling and vandalism.

Michael's report highlighted that the area has great potential and could incorporate wildflower areas in some of the amenity grassland area underutilised by the public. These would provide great benefits to biodiversity and, perhaps, an opportunity for local schools to get more involved with the park.



## Search on for the Ring of Gullion AONB's Red Squirrels and Pine Martens

The Ring of Gullion AONB and Geopark Team are working with conservation biologists, David Tosh and Josh Twining, and Waterford Institute of Technology (IT) to establish where exactly Red Squirrels and Pine Martens can be found in the Ring of Gullion area.

The Pine Marten (*Martes martes*) is considered one of the rarest and most elusive wildlife species in Ireland. David and Josh carried out a second camera trap study of the Pine Marten population of the Ring of Gullion to see if anything has changed since the first study in 2017. From the 2017 study, they have concluded that the Pine Marten density estimate produced for the RoG AONB is very similar to the estimates produced from the All-Ireland Pine Marten Population assessment carried out the same year.

**To find out more about David and Josh's work check out their website: [www.northernmarten.net](http://www.northernmarten.net)**

Waterford IT's PhD student Rebecca Synnott has been monitoring the abundance of Red Squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) in the Ring of Gullion. Monitoring is a critical tool to assess the positive or negative impacts of conservation management actions as it can be used to determine population trends and change in species distributions. At several sites in Ring of Gullion a combination of camera traps, live trapping methods and hair-tubes were used to study the local squirrel populations. This approach measured the abundance of red squirrels and allows for the comparison of population estimates from live trapping and DNA analysis.

This work is funded through the Northern Ireland's Environment Agency's Environment Fund for the delivery of the Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan and the Red Squirrel Group's Management Plan. The Red Squirrel Group would like to thank all the individuals and businesses for donating food for the Red Squirrels for the last year.

**To find out more about the group, visit the Ring of Gullion AONB website: [www.ringofgullion.org](http://www.ringofgullion.org)**







## Successful Application to Shared History Fund to Bring Communities Together

Newry Mourne and Down District Council were successful in their application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Shared History Fund. The Council's 'My Townland Memories - 1921 to 2021' was one of the 39 successful projects which will help mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland.

'My Townland Memories - 1921 to 2021' is a project which will help communities to explore the heritage of their townland area, and the stories and histories of those who lived and worked there from 1921 to the present day. The project, located in the Ring of Gullion, Mournes and Strangford and Lecale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) will be based on an intergenerational oral social history, capturing and presenting it; facilitated by schools, Museums, senior's groups, and local families

Members of the community will have the opportunity to engage with their oral history through a series of community workshops and events from local village groups, to artists and crafts people, luncheon clubs, and seniors groups as well as the "harder to reach" communities.

The programme will gather oral histories through community outreach workshops and oral history evenings and display them in compilation videos, recordings and written histories. There will be a host of online and in-person lectures for you to get involved in and at the end we will present townland maps at a final celebration event.

The project has been developed as a partnership between Down County, Newry and North Down Museums and the AONB and Geopark Partnerships. Experts input from Queen's University Belfast School of Natural & Built Environment, and additional specialist support from Happy Days Seniors Group and Mullaghbane Primary School was received during the development of the project.

**Keep an eye on the Ring of Gullion website [www.ringofgullion.org](http://www.ringofgullion.org) to find out more about how you can get involved in the project.**

## The Common Threads – Laces across the Border Project

The South Armagh Lace Collective are a group of lace-makers based in the wider Culloville area. The group was set up in the autumn of 2018 with the aim of promoting the rich heritage and tradition of lace-making which dates to the early 1830s as Culloville itself was known as the early seat of Carrickmacross Lace.

The South Armagh Lace Collective YouTube Channel is now online and will serve as a home for the films of their work to date, including their recent films from The Common Threads – Laces across the Border Project. The films from the Common Threads project are part of a six-month project which took place during COVID lock-down in partnership with the Borris Lace-makers Group from Co Carlow. This project has been made possible by funding received from the Department of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Cooperation with Northern Ireland Grant). The South Armagh Lace Collective will continue to add new film content and are keen to share the largely untold story of the South Armagh Lace-makers, and the pivotal role and contribution that they played in the International success of Carrickmacross Lace.

So please stop by and subscribe: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCVjkLFjG0j00Mdsqd9Hq9A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVjkLFjG0j00Mdsqd9Hq9A)

Rosie Finnegan-Bell from The South Armagh Lace Collective is currently working with some of the Editors of the Bloomsbury Encyclopaedia of World Textiles Elena Kanagy-Loux and Eliana Sanchez-Aldana to submit articles for two volumes of the Encyclopaedia Volume 3: Cloth in Cultures – Non-woven textiles and Volume 9, Sacred and Ceremonial textiles– the role and meaning of textiles in world ritual, religions, ceremonies and celebrations. Rosie will be submitting an article on the history of Carrickmacross Lace and the South Armagh Lace-makers as well as looking at the tradition of wearing lace mantillas and bridal/communion veils within a local and national context.

**Check out the Ring of Gullion AONB Website for lace events happening in August.**





# The Value of the Environment and the Outdoors

Leave No Trace is an outdoor ethics programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace provide an easily understood framework of minimum impact practices for anyone visiting the outdoors.

## The 7 Principals Are:

- 1. Plan ahead and Prepare.** Check the hourly weather forecast and ensure your planned route is suitable for the conditions. The Met Office website has detailed weather forecast for a number of mountains including Slieve Gullion. Keep to paths, use gates and stiles to cross walls and hedges. Leave gates as you find them. The Ring of Gullion AONB is a farmed landscape.
- 2. Be Considerate of Others.** Face coverings, physical distancing, managing your dog and a friendly wave when passing go a long way right now. Help outdoor site staff do their jobs by doing your part to take care of each other and our shared outdoors. Remember the outdoors belongs to all of us. Be kind.
- 3. Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife.** As more and more people visit the outdoors, wildlife in these areas are affected by visitors' presence. To help keep wildlife wild, it is best to give animals a wide berth and observe them from a distance. In the Ring of Gullion, we are lucky to have wild goats, deer and red squirrels. These animals are wild and adults and children should not approach them. The Ring of Gullion and Cooley Red Squirrel Group are working very hard to support the population of Red Squirrels in the area by providing feeders in the local forest with food. Please don't approach these feeders as Red Squirrels are shy and get scared very easily.
- 4. Travel and Camp on Durable Ground.** Stick to established trails. Give plants and wild animals their place in the outdoors. Creating new trails scars the landscape, causes erosion and intrudes on wildlife habitats. The path on Slieve Gullion is provided to protect the heather on the mountain. Slieve Gullion and the heather on the mountain has an EU protection as it one of the biggest area for dry heath in Northern Ireland.



- 5. Leave What You Find.** Conserve the past; Slieve Gullion Passage Tomb, dramatically situated on the southern end of the Slieve Gullion summit ridge at an altitude of over 570m, this is the highest surviving passage tomb in Ulster with stunning views over the surrounding countryside. The Ring of Gullion AONB and Geopark Team are working with the Department of Communities (DfC) Historic Environment Division to help repair damage to the passage tomb and prevent further damage.
- 6. Dispose of Waste Properly.** The upside to the 'Covid Pandemic' is that many people are rediscovering the great outdoors and appreciation of their natural environment. The downside is that there are those that are treating the country walks and mountain climbs as dumping grounds, and this is happening in both the Mourne and Ring of Gullion. Whilst local people in both these areas of outstanding natural beauty have organised litter clean ups, there are those who deliberately leave their litter behind them and in some cases vandalise our national monuments. Even biodegradable materials, such as orange peel, apple cores and food scraps take years to break down and attract scavengers that harm other wildlife. Waste is unsightly and ruins everyone's outdoor experience. The Ring of Gullion AONB and Geopark Team welcome everybody, young and not so young to enjoy and spend time in these areas, recognised throughout the world for their beauty, archaeology, and mythology. We as a voluntary organisation would also make a plea to the very few offenders, please take your litter home with you in respect of our areas of outstanding natural beauty.
- 7. Minimise the Effects of Fire.** Even though campfires have been a part of the outdoors for a long time, the legacy of campfires and barbeques too often are charred park benches and rocks, large rubbish-filled fire rings, damaged trees and uncontrolled wildfires. Check out the Dangers of Wildlife project on the Ring of Gullion's website for more information.

**Practising a Leave No trace ethic is very simple: Make it hard for others to see or hear you and LEAVE NO TRACE of your visit.**

# Slieve Gullion Special Area of Conservation - How to protect and enhance it?

The Slieve Gullion Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/ Natura 2000 site lies at the heart of Ring of Gullion AONB and the Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark. It is a protected landscape of European importance as a striking example of a ring dyke formation. This area has been designated because it contains habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened within a European context. SACs/Natura 2000 sites have a crucial role to play since they are the most important core sites for these species and habitats.

An SAC Management Plan has been drafted and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in progressing the implementation of the plan is keen to seek views from a wide range of stakeholders. The Council has worked with Fieldfare Ecology to deliver a number of projects in relation to the Plan over the last two years.

These include biodiversity and fencing survey; creation of a prescribed burn advisory document and a Queens Student Development Master Student is working on the carbon sink/sequestration element of the project. The work is being overseen by Professor Jim McAdam who has recently completed a Carbon Assets map for the Falkland Islands. There was ongoing stakeholder engagement through online surveys and public consultations.





## The Value of Our Outdoors in the Ring of Gullion AONB

The Ring of Gullion AONB area has a mixture of extremely varied and beautiful lands within a very small geographical area. A recent Northern Ireland survey identified that the benefits of spending time outdoors during the COVID-19 lockdown were significant. 84% of participants reported feeling physical health benefits and 90% reported benefits related to mental health and wellbeing. There was significant support for the development and improvements of walking and cycling trails.

Apart from health and well-being benefits, outdoor recreation contributes to society in a wide range of areas, including social inclusion and community cohesion. However, our natural environment is also a living, working and active environment with most of the land farmed and producing our food, drinking water and supporting livelihoods. It is important that a suitable balance is struck between enabling public access to our natural environment, while protecting that environment and ensuring landowners rights.



The development of the South Armagh Outdoor Recreation Action Plan and the Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan identified projects for development of recreation in the area. Slieve Gullion is designated as a Special Area of Conservation that has various protection orders in place to protect the habitat, heathland, geological and historical artefacts. The route to the summit is very popular with hillwalkers and the ever-increasing footfall has resulted in erosion issues to the current path and the surrounding heathlands.

To prevent further erosion of the area and enable better control of the footfall, thanks to funding from Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Environment Fund, the team are working with Mourne Heritage Trust to maintain the path on Slieve Gullion. We are working to restore the landscape and habitat impacts of visitors to ensure the sustainability of management on the site and improve the experience of visiting Slieve Gullion.

## The Ring of Gullion Way

Staff are also working with Outdoor Recreation NI to support the development of community trails in the area and to enhance the Ring of Gullion Way as a quality walking experience.

This 61 km two-day circular route follows off-road trails, quiet country lanes and forest tracks from Newry around the volcanic landscape of the Ring of Gullion AONB as it makes its way around the ring, passing numerous historical sites along the way. The team have worked on reviewing the existing routes and carrying out site visits to audit route options to take in more villages and provide more off-road options along the route. Current focus is on developing access and walking routes in areas of land which are in public ownership such as Carrive/Glendesha Forest, Glen dhu Forest and Tievecrom Forest. As the projects develop, we hope to engage more of the landowners and stakeholders in the area.



Public access to land in Northern Ireland is more restricted as most farms are of a much smaller scale, with a proportionately higher number of the population with land owning interests. Currently, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is carrying out a review of the provision of access for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland which the Ring of Gullion Partnership has provided feedback to.

## Ring of Gullion GAA Clubs on the Green Path

Cullovile Blues was selected as one of three mentoring clubs to 45 GAA clubs taking part in new Phase One of the Green Club Programme, due to their significant existing work and plans in the field of sustainability. Out of 220 GAA Clubs, Crossmaglen Rangers was picked as one of the 45 clubs. The GAA Green Club programme will run for twelve months and will see the clubs explore a range of sustainability projects designed to enrich their physical and social environments.

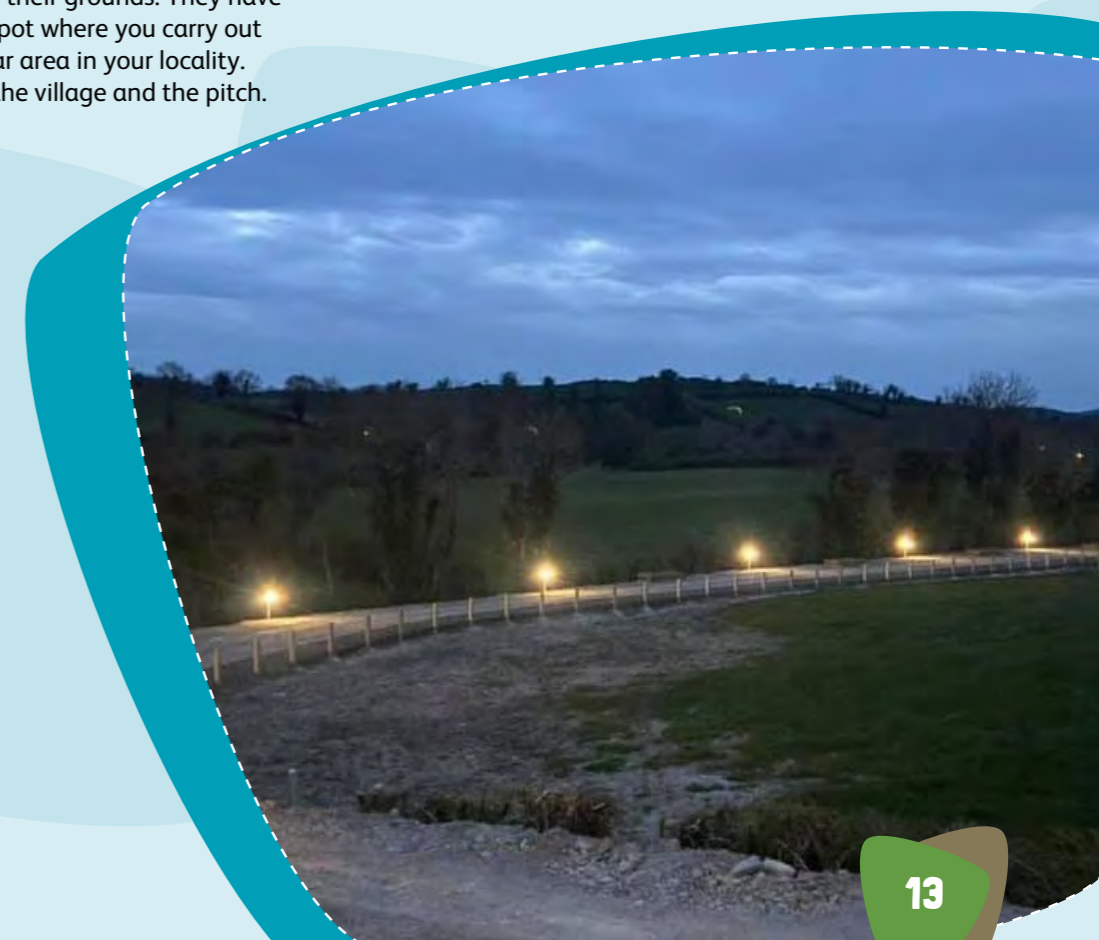
Cullovile Blues are currently busying themselves with the development of a biodiversity walking route around their club grounds. 100 metres of natural hedging and native trees coming was received from Woodland Trust and the club is working with the Council's Biodiversity Officer. With very overgrown boundary areas around one of our pitches and there's a lot of potential there because there's wildlife growing and a lot of birds. Alder trees are growing there to secure the bank.

The Club has also made contact with a couple of organisations that have been very helpful such as Live Here Love Here. They're into promoting pride of place and helping the environment with initiatives such as the Big Spring Clean that promotes litter-picking. They also have a small grant for biodiversity and it can be anything from £500 to £5,000. That would be of huge help to any club looking to promote biodiversity on their grounds. They have another initiative called Adopt a Spot where you carry out four clean ups a year of a particular area in your locality. They've adopted a spot between the village and the pitch.

Crossmaglen Rangers are delighted to be one of the 45 clubs selected to be part of this fantastic GAA initiative. They have set up a Green Team which consists of young and old members who will help to bring their ideas to fruition. One plan is to set up a Men's shed on their grounds. They have identified a need for this in the area as a high number of men living locally are retired, widowed or live alone. They hope that when this is established, it will be an eco friendly shed and the community will benefit from the work which takes place there. They also hope to place solar panels on buildings at their site.

They will also involve young and old in planting trees and seedlings in St Oliver Plunkett Park. They are looking forward to their green adventure and hopefully all their plans will become a reality.

**For more information on the GAA's new Green Club Programme visit the Green Club website or contact [greenclubs@gaa.ie](mailto:greenclubs@gaa.ie)**





RING OF GULLION SESSIONS

## Ring of Gullion Sessions

Saturday 10th and 17th April saw the airing of the 2 part series called Ring of Gullion Sessions online. The brain child of local singer and arts advocate, Colleen Savage, Ring of Gullion Sessions was a collaborative project between her arts and culture business Oriel Events and the Duncairn Arts Centre, Belfast. Filmed during lockdown, the series features local musical artists, poets, singers, visual artists and historians, filmed at the Round House at Bluebell Lane Glamping, featuring sites of local built heritage significance.

**'I have been so impressed with how the Duncairn Creative Team have continued to reach out to audiences, sharing art, music and song in a virtual capacity. I was therefore so delighted to collaborate, to really shine a light on the vibrant creative community we have here in this little pocket of South East Ulster.'**

**'At a time when artists and those in creative practice are suffering due to the pandemic, I simply wanted to create a performance platform and in tandem highlight the rich cultural heritage of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As Tommy Makem once said, 'South Armagh remains one of the last undiscovered parts of Ireland'. I think we have been keeping its treasures secret for long enough.'**

To watch back the series, check out The Duncairn Arts Centre facebook page and YouTube Channel or Colleen Savage – Oriel Events Facebook page.

This project was funded by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Arts Council Northern Ireland.

To find out more contact Colleen at [colleen@orielplanning.co.uk](mailto:colleen@orielplanning.co.uk) or 07872602551

## What's On!

When?	What?
<b>July 2021</b>	
16 July – 8 August	Big Butterfly Count
17 – 25 July	Dragonfly Week
28 July	World Nature Conservation Day
Month of July	Launch of the Ring of Gullion Tidy Village Competition
<b>August 2021</b>	
17 August	Deadline for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Photography Competition 2021
26 August	International Bog day
26 – 28 August	Moth Night
28 – 29 August	International Bat Night
TBC	National Get outside day
Month of August	Lúnasa Festival with a range of heritage and cultural events taking place.
<b>September 2021</b>	
11 September	Talks at Traditional Iron-Age Roundhouse
18 – 25 September	Red Squirrel Awareness Week
23 September – 23 October	Tree Seed Gathering Season
<b>October 2021</b>	
3 October	Uk Fungus Day
5 October	World Habitat Day
16 October	National Mammal Week
<b>November 2021</b>	
27 November – 5 December	National Tree Week



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