

Ballineaspaig Parish Bulletin

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Our parish “mini” wildflower meadow



Recently a “meitheal” of volunteers made a start on the development of a wildflower meadow in the grassy area beside the Parish Centre. The area was edged and tidied. The type of meadow targeted is a “long-flowering meadow”. The area will be cut once a year in April, and the cuttings removed to reduce the fertility of the soil. Over time a diversity of grasses and wildflowers will grow and multiply.

Why wildflower meadows?

You may have noticed the appearance elsewhere of many areas of wildflowers on public as well as private ground. These are to encourage a greater biodiversity of bees, butterflies, moths, and hoverflies. The meadows provide food, shelter and safety for these organisms which are all pollinators. Dramatic declines in pollinator populations have been recorded in recent years: for example, of our 98 species of wild bee, one third are threatened with extinction.

Why pollinators?

Pollinators play a vital role in pollinating plants and trees: 78% of our wild plants, and many of the species on which we depend for our food, need to be pollinated in order to reproduce.

(www.pollinators.ie)

Biodiversity

As the range of grasses and flowering plants increases, the greater the interaction between species, and the greater the stability of the populations and the ecosystem as a whole.

In due course we will register the actions we have taken for pollinators and we will put the parish meadow on the Irish map of pollinator-friendly locations (<https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>).

Our next meitheal will be on Tuesday next, 20th July, from 2.30 – 3.30pm. All are welcome to come and help and learn more. Please bring gardening gloves and implements if possible.

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