

LELP NEWSLETTER

Message from Elmarie Swanepoel *Programme Manager*

We are pleased that the delivery of the LELP Programme is now gathering momentum. Following our wonderful programme launch in December at the Enniskillen Castle, we have been working with our project partners and several local organisations and individuals to ensure that our planned projects get underway.

We have now also launched an exciting new Network, to provide an opportunity for local organisations and stakeholders in the fields of conservation and built and cultural heritage to work in a more coordinated manner to help to conserve, protect and enhance the areas in and around Lough Erne and Fermanagh

Several of our 23 individual projects have now launched and work has already started on many of the exciting initiatives within the programme portfolio. Details of some of the projects are included in this newsletter, and our website holds further details of all our projects, upcoming events and activity programmes.

We are also delighted to announce that Hazel Long takes a new position in the team of Heritage Project Manager. Hazel has been a member of the LELP team from March 2017 and will bring great knowledge and experience to her new role. We would like to take this opportunity in wishing Hazel congratulations and look forward to sharing the exciting work that Hazel will be carrying out in her new post.

Finally, I would like to also take this opportunity to thank our funder, National Lottery Heritage Fund, project partners, volunteers and all who have supported LELP to date. I hope that you enjoy reading of our developments and successes over the winter period. Please get in touch if you want to be involved in the delivery of this exciting programme.



Elmarie Swanepoel
LELP Programme Manager



Hazel Long
LELP Heritage Programme Manager

LOUGH ERNE LANDSCAPE OFFICIAL LAUNCH

The official launch of the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership took place on 5 December 2018 at the Enniskillen Castle Museum. Opening the celebratory event Joanne Sherwood, (Director, RSPB NI – lead partner) stated:

“Lough Erne has a wealth of natural, built and cultural heritage throughout this magnificent landscape. We are delighted to be working with the support of the National Lottery and in collaboration with our partners, in the delivery of these fantastic



(L to R): Elmarie Swanepoel LELP, Joanne Sherwood RSPB, Kevin Quinn RSPB, Joe Mahon, Heather Gott LELP, Jim McGreevy NLHF, Hazel Long LELP

LOUGH ERNE LANDSCAPE OFFICIAL LAUNCH *continued*

projects. Each of these projects will leave a lasting legacy on communities and landscape of the region”.

The event was very well attended with guests enjoying a keynote address from broadcaster Joe Mahon, well known for the highly successful Lesser Spotted Ulster series and his most recent Lough Neagh series on UTV.

The key funder National Lottery Heritage Fund, was represented

by NI Committee member Mr Jim McGreevy who highlighted how vital the landscape partnership is to reconnecting people with their past and ensuring a sustainable future for the environment. A representative from Heritage Fund stated;

“We are delighted that Lough Erne will now benefit from our support and we’re excited to see what they will achieve. Across the UK people are increasingly realising that nature is in trouble and it’s time to take a

more proactive approach. Schemes like these provide a creative local solution to help people reconnect with their landscapes and the environment and to implement solutions to tackle issues.”

Those attending had the opportunity to meet with representatives of each of the projects, with project partners The Mummings Foundation entertaining guests with a cultural performance of one of Fermanagh’s oldest traditions.

LELP NETWORK LAUNCH



(L to R): Kevin Quinn RSPB, Fred Ternan Lough Erne Heritage, Kate Noble National Trust, Eileen Murphy Queens University, Eddie McGovern Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Sarah McHugh Enniskillen Castle Museum, Elmarie Swanepoel LELP

The inaugural meeting of the LELP network was held in January, bringing together organisations and individuals who are currently working on projects within the Lough Erne region. Whilst working on the delivery of the scheme it became evident that whilst there was a lot of fantastic work taking place across the region there was no central platform to share information and ideas with one another.

Having spoke with many other organisations and to address the issue the LELP network was created with the aim to provide a platform for organisations and individuals to work collaboratively and share information.

The meeting was well attended with a wide range of organisations present. Programme Manager Elmarie Swanepoel remarked;

“The attendance here today has been magnificent, and it clearly indicates that there is indeed a need for the LELP network and a desire by these organisations to work together. By working together to deliver projects and to share ideas we will be able to have a greater impact on the region not just for organisations but also for those that live in the Fermanagh area. It is clear there is a real pride in the Fermanagh region and a passion to ensure that we can protect and enhance all that makes this area so unique.”

The next meeting of the LELP Network will provide organisations and community groups with the opportunity to showcase their organisation and the work that they are carrying out.

WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS



(L to R): David Bolton Fermanagh Beekeepers Association, Elmarie Swanepoel LELP, Rose Cremin Butterfly Conservation, Keith Brown NUI Galway Ethel Irvine Fermanagh Beekeepers Association, Amy Burns RSPB

Honeybee in Ireland Seminar

The LELP team were delighted to support the Fermanagh Beekeepers Association in hosting a seminar with guest speaker Keith Browne, NUI Galway. The seminar informed guests of the current research that the University is carrying out on the population of honey bees in Ireland.

Researchers at the University in Galway have been trying to find out

more about the wild bee population and its ability to adapt to its changing habitat. This research will provide essential information into the health of the honey bee population. It will also provide information on what changes can be made to ensure that honey bees survive in the face of modern-day pressures such as intensive farming and increased urbanization.

As part of the LELP project The Fermanagh Beekeepers have

➔ First Workshop for Aliens on The Lough Project



Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Chair Howard Thornton, Elmarie Swanepoel LELP and Julie Corry FODC with workshop participants

March saw the launch of the Aliens on the Lough project, in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council with the delivery of the first workshop. The workshop entitled “An Introduction to Invasive Species” provided training on the identification and eradication of invasive species.

LELP Programme Manager Elmarie Swanepoel launched the morning proceedings stating:

“We are delighted to be working in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on this project. We recognise the importance of protecting the natural and native biodiversity of the region and ensuring that we work with our partners to both protect and enhance the unique landscape that the Lough Erne region has to offer.”

Training continued outdoors where Council Chairman Mr Howard Thornton joined the workshop and park staff carried out a demonstration on the correct methods of eradicating alien species and enhancing native plant species.

This event is the first of several training events which will be delivered in the following four years and with the aid of volunteers, the project will help to manage affected areas in the Lough Erne area. If you would like to get involved with this project or would like to organise for tailored training for your community group, please get in touch.

➔ Access Inniskillings Launch

Project partners Inniskillings Museum launched the Access Inniskillings project on 5th December at Enniskillen Castle. The project will digitise over 14,000 of the museum’s historical documents from its paper and photographic archives prior to 1900. Guests were welcomed to the event by a period dressed soldier and then had the opportunity to tour the museum and the archives.

The digitisation of the documents will ensure that this historic information is available to all and preserved for future generations to come. Following the launch, the team have been busy in identifying and cataloguing the archives to be digitised. We are pleased that following a successful tender process Queens University, Belfast have been appointed to carry out the digitisation and works are due to begin this Spring.



Members of the Inniskillings team celebrating the launch of their Access Inniskillings project with Joe Mahon

WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

commenced their own project to assess the presence of wild honey bees in the County. The Association are building Bee boxes (Pictured) and placing them in areas across the county with the help of our local National Trust properties and other partners. Each box will have an electronic monitor installed to gain an insight into the hive activity and to better understand how our wild bee population is managing in this ever-changing landscape.

Live Here Love Here Funding Received

LELP were grateful to receive funding from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful through their Live Here Love Here grant. The grant was received as part of the Lough Erne Amazing Pollinators project and enabled the purchase of equipment necessary to deliver training and workshops.

The first of the workshops will take place this Spring with 3 workshops being delivered. Rose Cremin, Butterfly Conservation will deliver training at the first workshop entitled “An introduction to Pollinators and their Habitats”. The workshop will take place on Saturday 13th April 2019 in Castle Archdale Country Park. Information on the workshops can be found on the LELP website.



Paul Harrington and other paddlers testing out the newly purchased kayaks with some of the Erne Paddlers volunteers

Erne Paddlers Success

Project partners The Erne Paddlers have been delivering their winter canoe schedule and are now entering their Spring Summer programme. As part of the project the club have purchased new kayaks that are already being used as part of the Spring training programme.

This project will enable people of all abilities to have greater access to the Lough for recreation and explore the landscape of Lough Erne from a different perspective. Erne Paddlers relies on their volunteer coaches to deliver their programme of events and offer both recreational paddle courses as well as courses for those interested in coaching.

We would also like to congratulate Chloe Hamilton, Chair of the Erne Paddlers and volunteer coach for being awarded both the Fermanagh Herald Disability Coach of the Year and CANI's Club Coach of the Year. This is an amazing achievement for Chloe and the Erne Paddlers.

Lough Erne Wildfowlers Council

The Lough Erne Wildfowlers Council (LEWC) have been extremely busy getting their project underway to restore and enhance the habitats of breeding waders in the Boa Island area. Following a successful tender process scrub clearance has taken place in order for the lands to be suitable habitat for breeding waders.

Over the coming months a monitoring survey of wader populations in these areas will take place and we look forward to being able to share the outcomes of this with you in future newsletters.



Common Snipe

We are delighted to invite you to join us on a guided Evening Snipe Walk taking place on 3rd May at 9pm. This walk will provide the opportunity to see the progress that has taken place in the area to enhance this habitat. On the night we will have the opportunity to observe Snipe and other wildlife on the site. Places are limited and we ask you to register early.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2019

Erne Paddlers Full programme of paddling events for all ages

13 April 2019

LEAP – Workshop 1 Introduction to Pollinators and their Habitats

3 May 2019

Lough Erne Wildfowlers Council Snipe Walk

16 May 2019

LEAP – Workshop 2 Introduction to Butterflies

18 June 2019

LELP Network Meeting

GET INVOLVED

There are many opportunities for you to become involved in the events and projects taking place, please contact Heather: **E: heather.gott@rspb.org.uk** or **T: 028 6632 7109.**

If you would like to subscribe to be kept up to date with new opportunities and developments, you can subscribe by visiting **www.lelp.org.uk**

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

This programme would not be possible without the support of our partners.

Lough Erne Landscape Partnership is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, without the support of the National Lottery players across the UK we would not be able to deliver this fantastic programme.