

LELP NEWSLETTER

Message from Elmarie Swanepoel *Programme Manager*

We have had a fantastic summer filled with exciting events, outdoor activities and learning opportunities for all ages. So much so that this newsletter is an extended version, filled to the brim with wonderful stories of how activities delivered as part of the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership is bringing people together to protect, conserve and celebrate the unique built, natural and cultural heritage of our area.

We are delighted to welcome Richard Watson as Independent Chair of the LELP Programme Board and Lough Erne Heritage has also joined as formal partners of the Partnership. They now join the RSPB, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Waterways Ireland, National Trust, Fermanagh Rural Community Network and Upper Lough Erne Region in the partnership.

Our project partners have been extremely busy over the summer with many new and exciting events and initiatives taking place. If by reading this newsletter you wish to learn more about any of the projects or would like to volunteer with the partnership, please get in touch at any time. We look forward to hearing from you.

For further information please contact Heather:

E: heather.gott@rspb.org.uk or T: 028 6632 7109



Elmarie Swanepoel
LELP Programme Manager



Richard Watson
Programme Board Chair

LELP TEAM



Mary Redmond, *Finance & Admin Project Officer*



Jade Bloomfield, *Business Support Apprentice*

We welcomed Mary Redmond to the team as Finance & Admin Project Officer, Mary has a wealth of experience and knowledge in the finance sector and a passion for the Lough Erne landscape.

Jade Bloomfield also joined the team as Business Support Apprentice, and we are very pleased to welcome her as the first apprentice for the RSPB in Northern Ireland. Jade will be working towards achieving a qualification whilst learning a range of new skills in her work with the Partnership.

NEW INDEPENDENT CHAIR FOR LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP) is delighted to announce the appointment of Richard Watson as Independent Chair of the Partnership Programme Board.

As Chair, Richard will work on a voluntary basis with the partnership to facilitate the delivery of this landscape scheme, ensuring a long-term legacy in Fermanagh. Richard has been active since joining advocating for the partnership and becoming involved in activities such as the LELP Community Litter Pick.

Richard brings a wealth of experience working at a senior level both locally in County Fermanagh and in a cross-border capacity. Richard has recently retired from his role as Manager of Marble Arch Global Geopark, where he was instrumental in leading the development of the first Global Geopark in the UK and Ireland. During his management Marble Arch Caves Geopark also became the first cross-border Geopark in the world. Richard now continues to work as an international Geopark Assessor and brings to the role a great knowledge and interest of the Lough Erne landscape.

Upon his appointment Richard explained:

“The Lough Erne Landscape Partnership is making a real difference in Fermanagh by supporting local communities and other organisations that promote the environment, history and culture of Lough Erne and its shores. I’m pleased to be able to play a part in contributing to the hard work being carried out by so many dedicated people and I will be very interested to see more of what they are doing.”

Paul Mullan, Director of The National Lottery Heritage Fund added

“Landscape Partnerships can be complicated, challenging but amazing projects to manage as they involve a wide range of partners and sub-projects. In our experience a strong independent chair is essential to the success of the projects and we are delighted that Richard has been appointed to this role. We wish him and the partnership team every success as they roll out the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership.”



Richard Watson at the Community Litter Pick in Enniskillen



Richard Watson with members of the LELP Programme Board

LOUGH ERNE HERITAGE - NOW FORMAL PARTNERS OF LELP

LELP are delighted to announce that Lough Erne Heritage are now formal partners of the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership. The Lough Erne Heritage group brings enthusiasm of the heritage of the Lough Erne region and a specialist knowledge of maritime heritage on the Lough throughout the years.



LELP Working Group welcoming Lough Erne Heritage

Lough Erne Heritage are also currently delivering The Erne Programme, a community heritage project in Co Fermanagh that focuses on raising awareness and preserving the heritage of traditional boat building and the cultural heritage of the people who lived on and around the shores of Lough Erne.

We are delighted to be working with Lough Erne Heritage who will bring great knowledge and value to the work of the Partnership over the coming years.

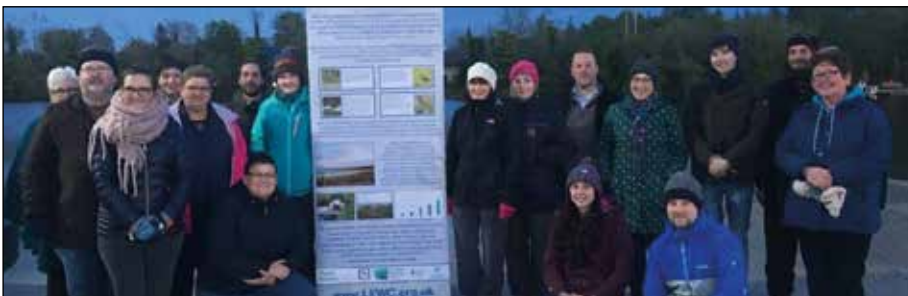
A ROYAL VISIT TO FERMANAGH



Elmarie Swanepoel and Heather Gott meeting Prince Charles

LELP had the pleasure of being invited to attend The National Lottery Big Lunch in Lisnaskea and had the opportunity to meet with Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall and discuss the work of the Partnership. Prince Charles was interested in hearing about the role of the Partnership in protecting, promoting and enhancing the heritage of the Lough Erne region. We were able to highlight the ambitions of the project and the Prince took a particular interest in the demonstration bee hive on display that relates to the Lough Erne Amazing Pollinators Wild Bee project. Local community groups and businesses were invited to attend the lunch and entertained by local school children from St Ronan's Primary School and The Moat Primary School. In 2018, 6 million people took part in The Big Lunch throughout the UK, hosted by the Eden Project and supported by the National Lottery. The Big Lunch aims to bring communities together.

WILDFOWLERS COUNCIL SNIPE WALK



LEWC Snipe Walk

The Lough Erne Wildfowlers Council (LEWC) held a fantastic launch of their habitat restoration project by hosting a Snipe Walk at Dusk in May. Those in attendance had the opportunity to listen to unique drumming of snipe whilst enjoying a fabulous sunset. In years gone by, this would have been a common sound across the county. However in recent times birds such as Snipe and Curlew have been in decline and the LEWC hope to address this issue through their project.

The LEWC project focusses on undertaking conservation works and habitat management to improve the breeding habitats for these important species. Throughout the summer months LEWC have been monitoring the numbers of certain species of birds breeding across Boa Island and we look forward to publishing their findings in the coming months.

Over the winter months LEWC will carry out additional scrub clearance works along the shores of Boa Island to provide breeding grounds for these birds when they return next year.

LOUGH ERNE AMAZING POLLINATORS

Throughout spring and summer LELP working in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation and Fermanagh Beekeepers, delivered a series of workshops to teach people about pollinators and their habitats.



RSPB and FBKA installing a wild bee box on one of the island reserves

Following the workshop many of the participants have been busy planting wildflowers in their gardens and placing overnight Heath Traps to discover what species are in their area. The volunteers carrying out these wonderful activities have had many fabulous finds and the data collected will be invaluable in assessing the population of these magnificent pollinators.

A second element of this project is to research the presence and survivability of native Irish honey bee colonies living in Fermanagh. This has involved building and locating suitably designed boxes in old woodlands across the Lough Erne region.

Ten boxes with Bluetooth sensors that report on activity within the bee box have been located in woodlands in Co. Fermanagh with the much-appreciated assistance of the National Trust, the RSPB and private landowners.

This year four of the boxes were occupied by colonies and it is hoped to place further boxes in 2020. This data will be incorporated into the work that is currently being carried out by the National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway.

ERNE PADDLERS SUCCESSES



The Erne Paddlers have had a magnificent summer with a busy programme of canoeing activities providing access to the Lough and teaching people new canoeing and coaching skills. The Club hosted a fully booked Taster Day in July, with a range of ages attending on the day. It was magnificent to see everyone enjoying being out on the water and gaining access to the Lough in a safe manner, learning new skills in a fun environment.

In the coming months as part of the project the club will be purchasing new equipment that will enable more people to access the Lough, as well as a full programme of events with some exciting new paddles taking place.

ACCESS INNISKILLINGS: VOLUNTEER DAY AND DIGITISATION

Following the launch of the Access Inniskillings project in December staff and volunteers have been busy at the Inniskillings Museum. This year saw the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Inniskillings Museum at Enniskillen Castle, the museum hosted a fantastic celebratory event, which provided an opportunity to tour the magnificent archives held by the museum and learn more about the history of the Regiment. Museum staff and volunteers at the Inniskillings Museum have been busy collating over 15,000 pre 1900 archives held at the museum to be digitised. Over the summer Queens University Belfast have been digitising the documents which will then be made available to access on a designated website in 2020. Whilst collating the archives the team have uncovered some magnificent documents of the Regiments history and personal letters from soldiers to their loved ones whilst at war, these documents will provide a unique insight into the military history of the Regiment.

The Museum also hosted a volunteer day in August to both share the work that they are carrying out and to also provide training to current volunteers in the use and access of the digitised items. Volunteers had the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of the process of digitisation with expert tuition from the team at Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis, Queens University. This is a truly exciting project and we all look forward to accessing the digitised archives in 2020.



Robert Gibson FODC, Sarah McHugh FODC, Elmarie Swanepoel LELP, Neil Armstrong Inniskillings Museum



Museum volunteers learning how to digitise fragile archives.

HERITAGE SKILLS - WEAVING THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS

Throughout September to the end of November 2019, as part of the Heritage Skills project, we have been running willow weaving classes with Belleek Women's Shed, Enniskillen Men's Shed and Lisnaskea Men's Shed, kindly supported by funding from the Public Health Agency through the CLEAR project

Twenty-four people participated in the programme to learn about willow weaving as a heritage craft and to create wonderful baskets in a fun and engaging environment.



Lisnaskea Men's Shed

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



As part of our LELP Volunteer project LELP organised a Community Litter pick in partnership with Erne Paddlers, Share Discovery Village, Blue Green Yonder, Keep NI Beautiful and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on the 10th of August 2019.

Having been alerted by the public to an area of Enniskillen which had a substantial amount of litter, the LELP Team and over 45 volunteers, including Councillor Paul Blake, and a team from Enniskillen Youth Action carried out a clean-up of the waterways and shorelines around Enniskillen. The Volunteers collected a total of 22 bags of litter in just 2 hours, and found some surprising items including patio chairs, a shopping trolley and even a bicycle frame.

Councillor Blake stated:

"I was shocked at the volume of litter being pulled from Lough Erne, the lake is such an important feature for our town and more care must be taken when disposing of rubbish to ensure our lake is protected for future generations. I was heartened and delighted to join such a large group of volunteers who came together to organise the litter pick. My thanks to LELP for organising the event."

LELP and our partners will be carrying out a quarterly litter pick throughout the County. If you, or an organisation you are connected to would like to get involved please get in touch.



Concentration! Lisnaskea Men's Shed

As part of the classes, tutor Tom O'Brien has been collaborating with the Fermanagh Beekeepers Association to teach some participants how to make a willow bee skep. Traditional willow bee skeps were used in the past to catch and relocate swarms of wild bees, and the newly created skeps will be used by the Association in their exciting research project on native wild bees.

A heritage skills celebration event is planned for November to provide an opportunity for all participants to showcase their willow craft items and learn more about other heritage skills & crafts including lacemaking, beekeeping and traditional farming skills.



Belleek Women's Shed



Enniskillen Men's Shed

KEEPERS OF TRADITION LAUNCH

The Mummings Foundation launched the Keepers of Tradition project with an exciting event in St Ninnidh's Primary School, Derrylin. The Mummings Foundation delivered a 10-week programme to pupils, teaching them about the age-old mumming traditions in Fermanagh. At the end of the programme pupils wrote and performed a newly created folk drama in front of a packed school assembly.

This performance marked the launch of the Mummings Foundation project which aims to share the mumming traditions with a wider audience and encourage young people to become involved in the heritage of the region.

The project also encouraged pupils to research mumming traditions in their area by speaking with parents and grandparents about their memories of the Mummings throughout the years. This schools programme has been fantastic in connecting young people to age old traditions and delivering inter-generational heritage activity.



LAUNCH OF THE LOUGH ERNE SCHOOLS CONVENTION



The Lough Erne Landscape Partnership and Share Discovery Village teamed up to deliver a school's convention to primary schools in the Upper Lough Erne region that included a variety of fun and environmental educational workshops delivered by several local organisations.

In September 356 children from 15 schools, mainly in Primary 6, had the opportunity to spend half of the day canoeing on the lough with Share Discovery Village and Erne Paddlers and the other half of the day attending nature based educational workshops with specialist organisations including: the RSPB, Fermanagh Beekeepers Association, Waterways Ireland, Butterfly Conservation, Bug Life, Source to Tap, Marble Arch Global Geopark and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. Pupils and teachers had a magnificent day outdoors learning about the environment and landscape of Lough Erne and gaining some new canoeing skills. This event will be held annually at Share Discovery Village, providing pupils with the opportunity to learn in an outdoor setting.



LELP IN THE COMMUNITY



Jade Bloomfield, LELP at the Fermanagh County Show



Children taking part in crafts at Festival Lough Erne.

Throughout the summer months LELP attended several Community events across the county, this included the Belleek Regatta, Fermanagh County Show and Festival Lough Erne. The events were all well attended and enabled the team to share the work of the partnership and project partners with a wide audience. At several of the events the team worked with young people to provide an understanding of natural heritage through craft work. Everyone seemed to have a fantastic time creating butterflies and bumble bees or planting spring bulbs. If you see the team at any events, please do pop over and say hello and learn more about the projects that the Partnership is carrying out.



RSPB | LOUGH ERNE ISLANDS RESTORATION FOR BREEDING CURLEW

The RSPB have had a very busy year on their Lower Lough Erne Islands Reserve, carrying out species monitoring between April and July to assess the success of populations of breeding waders. RSPB were delighted to announce that curlew increased by a single pair for the third year in a row taking the reserve population to 39 pairs. Since the mid 1980's the populations of these once common birds have been declining across the region but with the dedication of the RSPB and their conservation efforts restoring the species-rich wet grassland habitats on many of the islands on Lough Erne for birds such as curlew and lapwing it is hoped that this trend will change. The first phase of their project was completed with the installation of a livestock handling facility on Trasna Island. RSPB staff designed & built the pen finishing the project in July. Grazing animals, particularly cattle, are an invaluable tool in creating ideal breeding conditions for birds like curlew. It is fantastic to see that the work of the RSPB in the region is so successful and we look forward to following the progress of this project throughout the scheme.



GET INVOLVED

Over the coming months LELP has lots of opportunities for people to become involved in our projects and events. For further information please contact Heather:

**E: heather.gott@rspb.org.uk or
T: 028 6632 7109**

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

This programme would not be possible without the support of our formal programme partners, our wider network of partners and our funders.

The 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 scheme. We also want to acknowledge funding from our programme partners; RSPB, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, National Trust and Waterways Ireland.

Specific funding towards individual projects have also been gratefully received. Current and previous projects have been/are receiving funding support from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, SportNI, Public Health Agency, Department for Communities - Historic Environment Division and Live Here Love Here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9 & 10 November**
Leave no Trace Trainers Training
- 23 & 24 November**
Lowland Leader Training
- 27 November**
Heritage Skills Celebratory Event
- November**
Heritage Skills Boat Building Course
- 10 December**
LELP Network Meeting
- 18 January**
St Ninnidh's Feast Day Celebration
- 8 & 9 February**
Rescue & Emergency First Aid Training
- 7 & 8 March**
Lowland Leader Training Course 2

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LELP NETWORK MEETING

The LELP Network continues to grow with 45 member organisations and over 140 individual members. In July, our third successful network event was held. Following an overview of network developments, Dr Jim Bradley from the Belfast Hills Partnership addressed the audience about the experience of the Belfast Hills Partnership and their successes in developing long lasting partnerships.

Sharon Archer of the National Lottery Heritage Fund provided a presentation on the available funding streams and overview of the funding processes involved. Following on from the success of the 5-minute organisational presentations in meeting 2, 8 further organisations provided a short overview of the work their organisation carries out and the projects they are delivering in the region. The Network continues to grow, and the next meeting is planned for Tuesday, 10 December. This event will focus on the History of Lough Erne, for further information please get in touch.

LAUNCH OF IMPROVED LELP WEBSITE

WWW.LELP.ORG.UK

The LELP team have been working with our contractor, Sugar Projects, to redesign the LELP Website and to make it more user friendly. Improvements include a dedicated events page which provides users with information on lots of events that are taking place across the county and not just LELP events. Work is also ongoing to develop a dedicated section on the website for Network members and Network activities.

If you wish to advertise any events on the page, please contact Jade:

**E: jade.bloomfield@rspb.org.uk or
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