



# BRIDE Project

## Newsletter April 2019



**BRIDE Project**  
*Farming with Nature*

### PROJECT UPDATE

With calving, lambing, foaling and tilling almost complete on most farms it has turned out a great spring as far as the weather is concerned. The mild and dry weather makes a farmer's life infinitely more enjoyable with crops set on time and in good conditions and care of new born animals relatively disease-free. Unfortunately, with the birthing season over next year's breeding season is already underway so as the saying goes "a farmer's work is never done".

Pride of place this month goes to the farmers who turned out in numbers at our first demonstration farm walk last week. The options and measures to improve farmland biodiversity were viewed out in the field (literally!) and the reasons and results for each measure explained. The capital costs that the Project will cover were explained and feedback from the farmers was very positive.

### Project Promotion

The project was represented (as an Irish EIP Project) at the Networx event at Brussels in early April. This event celebrated 1000 EIP projects across the EU and was addressed by the Commissioner for Agriculture, Phil Hogan. The Irish National Rural Network (NRN) were also present along with Teagasc and what was really interesting was the effort that is being put in at EU level to support farmers and rural communities across Europe. 2 days of 27 member states coming together to solve issues concerning farming and rural communities.

### WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

**Orange tip butterfly** - The orange-tip butterfly is now out on the wing. The male is white with a

beautiful bright orange tip to his wings. Its food plant (essential plant for the butterfly caterpillars) is the Lady's Smock (Cuckoo Flower) which is also flowering now.

The male is much more conspicuous and more frequently seen than the female as only the male has the bright orange tip on each forewing.



The female has grey wing-tips with a black central spot on each forewings. The hind-wings of both the male and female have mottled green undersides



LADY'S SMOCK



### MONTHLY REMINDER

- Keep nutrients (fertiliser and slurry) and sprays away from natural habitats such as field margins and riparian buffer strips. Excess nutrients promote the more aggressive plant species leaving the smaller wild flowers unable to compete.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

We are very interested in any reports of breeding Lapwing in the Bride Valley. These birds are in serious decline and are red-listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland list. A BirdWatch Ireland nationwide survey funded by the Department of Agriculture is appealing for your records of breeding Lapwing this spring and summer. Any sightings can be logged here [Project Lapwing Survey 2019](#) and if you could also report sightings to the BRIDE office (admin@thebrideproject.ie).



## FEEDBACK

We are extremely encouraged with the positive feedback that came in following our farm walk last week. It was great to see farmers engaged in the project and we the project team are always open to any suggestions and feedback you may have to further develop the project and make its application practical and sustainable on your farms. Being a pilot project, we are all learning and all feedback and observations are more than welcome.

### Buzzard Pellet

Following our farm walk and the discussion on Barn Owl pellets (regurgitated prey in the form of fur and bones which the birds cannot digest), a Bride farmer came across a Buzzard pellet under an oak tree the following day. So keep your eyes peeled and see what birds of prey may be on your farm.



## FARM PLASTIC COLLECTION

The Irish Farm Film Producers Group (IFFPG) are running their plastic recycling day at **Glanbia Castlelyons on May 13<sup>th</sup> (9am-5pm)**. These plastics are re-used as furniture, piping, damp proofing products and more.

## WHATS IN BLOOM...



GREATER STITCHWORT



GROUND IVY



EARLY PURPLE ORCHID



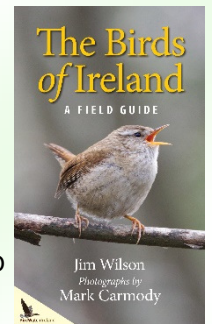
BIRD CHERRY

## ID GUIDES

We have ID swatches (mammals, butterflies, trees, bumblebees) just in from Biodiversity Ireland and also some copies of "The Birds of Ireland. A field Guide" by Jim Wilson. If any of our Bride Valley farmers are interested



in these please drop in to the office. Book €10 Swatches €5.



## Contact Details

Phone ☎: 025 - 37519

Email ✉: [enquiries@thebrideproject.ie](mailto:enquiries@thebrideproject.ie)  
[admin@thebrideproject.ie](mailto:admin@thebrideproject.ie)

Facebook 📘 : @TheBrideProject

Twitter 🐦 : @bride\_project

*The BRIDE Project is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020*