

DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS



SUMMER EDITION 2022

HI! MY NAME IS 'SOCKS THE FOX',
SO GREAT TO MEET YOU ALL AND WELCOME TO MY
FIRST NEWSLETTER.



The winner of 'Name the Fox' is Eoghan who has named our mascot fox "SOCKS". He is a pupil with Ms. Irwin's Senior Infants Class at St. Joseph's N.S Dundalk, and is pictured here with his teacher Ms. Irwin and Ms. Donnelly. Eoghan was presented with a €50 Smyth's voucher and an original framed illustration of the fox, as well as a €150 shop local voucher for his school. Also pictured here are members of Tidy Towns Committee, Helen Byrne (Chairperson) and Anita McEneaney. It was also decided that due to the high level of entries to this, competition, that we would also award four runner up prizes of a €50 shop local voucher to the following classes.

Ms. Ciara Rafferty – 4th Class at Scoil Mhuire na nGael
Ms. Larkin – Junior infants at Realt na Mara
Mr. Jones – 2nd class at CBS Primary
Ms. Mc Ardle – Castletown Girls NS

All things Butterfly!

WHAT IS A BUTTERFLY?

In this edition of our newsletter, we are focussing on the beauty and the amazing hard work that is undertaken by our stunning insects the butterfly.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR BEST LOVED INSECTS

Dundalk Tidy Towns works hard to look after our butterfly friends. We do this by protecting and planting native hedgerows, reducing mowing to allow native wildflowers to grow and by planting pollen-rich flowers/pollinator friendly trees.

A butterfly is an insect, which means they have antennae, three body parts (the head, thorax and abdomen) and six legs. This is true for all insects. However, butterflies also have a few features that not all insects have - for example, they have wings too! It is believed that they got their name because they would fly around milk and butter!



HOW TO DRAW A BUTTERFLY



STAGE 01



STAGE 02



STAGE 03



STAGE 04



STAGE 05



STAGE 06



STAGE 07



STAGE 08

DRAW AND CUT-OUT A SERIES OF BUTTERFLIES AND BUILD A SUMMER MOBILE FROM THESE.



MAKE A COMPOST BOTTLE

01. Take a 2 litre soft drink bottle and cut off the top narrow part.
02. Add a layer of soil to the base.
03. Layer up with food/organic garden or kitchen waste.
04. Once filled add water, just enough to make it damp and allow lots of sunlight.
05. Keep a record and take photos of changes as it becomes compost.



FEEDING THE DUCKS

Advice from Birdwatch Ireland is that we shouldn't give bread to ducks. Bread can give them upset tummies and has no nutritional value so it's like junk food for ducks! Instead, chop your vegetable peelings into small chunks (potato, carrots or leaves) and bring them in a small plastic container. The ducks will also love a few defrosted frozen peas, or any type of bird seed.

design: www.pH7ie

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Did you know that the flower in the middle of Dundalk Tidy Towns Logo is the Coulter Poppy? It is named after Thomas Coulter who was born in Dundalk in 1793. He was a famous botanist and explorer in the 19th century. He travelled the world collecting and recording plants. One of these plants was the Coulter Poppy which he discovers in California and which is named after him.



THE COULTER POPPY

The Coulter poppy has beautiful flowers of transparent white and yellow almost like a fried egg! It blooms from July to September and is a favourite of the bees! It is a hardy plant which can grow up to six feet tall. If you visit the Courtyard in the County Museum in July/August you will see these beautiful flowers.

CUPLA FOCAIL

FÉILEACÁN = BUTTERFLY
 BLÁTHANNA = FLOWERS
 SAMHRADH = SUMMER
 GRIANMHAR = SUNNY
 GAIRDÍN = GARDEN
 TUGANN AN AIMSIR MHAITH
 AMACH NA FÉILEACÁIN = THE FINE
 WEATHER BRINGS THE
 BUTTERFLIES OUT



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 share with us!



Don't forget to share with us any of your photos of butterflies or any of the summer activities from this newsletter. You can share them with us by email, facebook or instagram. Socks would love to see them too!

A FEW OF OUR NATIVE IRISH BUTTERFLIES

SMALL COPPER

RED ADMIRAL

HOLLY BLUE

PEACOCK

10 FUN FACTS ABOUT BUTTERFLIES

- 1 Butterflies have taste buds on their feet! They taste food by standing on it!
- 2 It is estimated that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 different species of butterfly exist in the World.
- 3 They cannot hear.
- 4 Butterflies live on all continents except Antarctica.
- 5 As butterflies are cold-blooded, they can't fly or function properly if their body temperature falls below 13 degrees Celsius.
- 6 Butterflies only live for an average of a few weeks.
- 7 One of the largest butterflies is the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, with a wingspan of between 10cm and 18cm.
- 8 Butterflies' wings help to protect them against predators, either by folding to help blend a butterfly into its surroundings, or using the full colour spectrum to frighten predators away.
- 9 The wings of butterflies are actually transparent. The vivid colours are due to overlapping bright scales.
- 10 A group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope.

WHY ARE OUR BUTTERFLIES SO IMPORTANT?

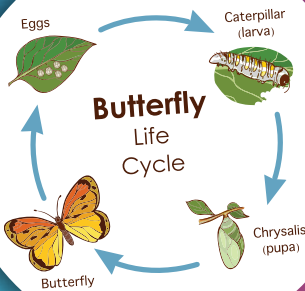
Butterflies are great for your garden as they are great pollinators. They collect pollen and carry it to other plants. This helps fruits, vegetables and flowers to produce new seeds. They eat plenty of weedy plants, provide a food source for other animals and are indicators of a healthy environment and ecosystems. With summer here, keep an eye out for Butterflies fluttering by. Did you know that Ireland has 35 different types of Butterflies? Here are two great websites to help you identify them.

http://www.irishbutterflies.com/butterfly_species.html
<https://butterflyconservation.ie/wp/>

Fragile:
Butterfly wings are very delicate and damage easy so be careful when holding them.

Life Cycle:
All butterflies and moths have a four stage life cycle. The stages are: egg, larva or caterpillar, pupa or chrysalis and finally the adult butterfly or moth. *Most Irish butterflies take a full year to complete their life cycle!*

THE LIFECYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY





SUPPORTING OUR BUTTERFLY WORKERS

BUTTERFLIES NEED MORE THAN FOOD

...they need water too and Puddling! The best way to offer water is in a shallow, pebble-filled dish. Butterflies, moths and hoverflies land on the pebbles to take a drink from the shallows in safety. Butterflies love puddling which means hanging out in damp mud and sand and drinking a bit of water so a shallow dishes and damp sand is ideal. Also, add some flat stones as butterflies enjoy sitting in the sun, basking raises their body temperature, so they are able to fly and be active.

MAKE YOUR BUTTERFLY GARDEN A PESTICIDE-FREE ZONE

YOUR PLANTS WILL PROBABLY ATTRACT LOTS OF CREATURES ALONGSIDE THE BUTTERFLIES. THESE ADDITIONAL CREATURES ARE ALL PART OF THE NATURAL FOOD CHAIN - DON'T BE TEMPTED TO USE PESTICIDES, AS YOU WILL KILL THE BUTTERFLIES AND POLLINATORS TOO.



SUPPORTING YOUR BUTTERFLY GARDEN!

DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY A LOT OF THE BUTTERFLY POPULATION HAS DECLINED OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS, BUT WE CAN HELP BY EASILY CREATING BUTTERFLY FRIENDLY AREAS IN OUR GARDENS, OUR PATIO'S OR WINDOWSILLS. Quick Tips!

Find a warm sunny spot in your garden. If you don't have much grass area, find some pots, baskets or window boxes and drill base holes so that water can drain freely. The chosen spot needs sunshine, because butterflies can't survive without warmth. Their wings soak up sun rays and without it they'll simply die. The sun also allows the flowers to blossom to attract the butterflies.

Choose plants that appeal to the whole life cycle of the butterfly. Nectar is a sweet fluid produced by the flower and butterflies love it! It encourages bees and butterflies to pollinate. Purple, pink and yellow coloured blossoms seem to be preferred by Irish butterflies. Butterflies eat nectar from March to November.

In hot weather you need to water you plants and cut off the flower heads as they die to encourage new ones!

PLANTS YOUR BUTTERFLIES WILL LOVE!

SPRING AND SUMMER-FLOWERING PLANTS

Heather / Primrose / Rosemary / Honesty / Forget-me-not

SUMMER AND AUTUMN-FLOWERING PLANTS

Hebe / Rose / Honeysuckle / Buddleja / Sedum

