

Ecology Update

Monkstown Golf Club is fortunate to be situated in a rural setting with many wildlife features in its environment. The committees over the last number of years have been conscious of the responsibility of the club to enhance this aspect of our golf course.

- The lake adjacent to the 17th tee is a natural haven for wildlife. This was the reservoir for Monkstown, Passage West and Glenbrook until mid-sixties and is now the property of the club. Marine Biologist John King has been managing the lake in respect of algae control during the last ten years. He reports that the reservoir is home to otters and fish species of perch, rudd roach, stickleback and eels. The habitat is also visited by egret, heron, water hen and mallard duck. The quality of the water is high with little evidence of pollution
- The area to the left of the 3rd tee and to the left of the 9th has not being mowed for 9 to 11 years. Tom O'Byrne Ecologist who visited in December 2016 remarked that this had led to the planting of acorns by the jays (member of the crow family). These birds feed on acorns from oak trees and have planted acorns in this area. This has resulted in the growth of oak saplings which can be seen clearly nicely spaced.
- As you may be aware, red squirrels can be seen in various parts of the course. Our Head Greenkeeper Martin Travers, who arrived in the club 27 years ago, informs me that the squirrels first appeared 7/8 years ago. In 2016 the club engaged Tom O'Byrne to produce a report to enable the club to enhance the habitat for the squirrels. The report is available on the club website.
- One of his recommendations was that feeder boxes be provided as a food source for the squirrels over the winter months. Feeder boxes will be placed at various locations in the golf course. Club member Peter Davies has agreed to manage these.
- There is a continuous programme of tree management for the Club. The strategy is to plant native hardwood trees such as oak and beech to replace the leylandii which are coming to the end of their life.

Hilary Madden
General Manager/Secretary
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