

BOG Subcultures

A Zine

We're going underground

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DEC 2023

420 ppn

bog (n.)*

Wet, soft, spongy ground with soil chiefly composed of decaying plants, from the Irish bogach, adjective bog meaning soft, moist.

subculture (n.)*

By 1886, in reference to bacterial cultures derived from previous cultures. By 1922 in reference to human societies. The way of life, customs, and ideas of a particular group of people within a society that are different from the rest of that society.

zine (n.)

The word “zine” is a shortened form of the term fanzine. Fanzines emerged in the 1930s among fans of science fiction and have roots in the underground publications of social and political activism in the '60s. By the '70s, zines were popular on the punk rock circuit and in the '90s, the medium was taken up by the feminist punk scene and riot grrrls. Zines are non-profit and intended to share ideas quickly and cheaply.



ACT
NOW

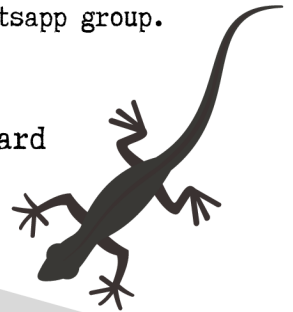


Lizard surveying @ Girley Bog, Meath

After the installation of bog bridges at Girley Bog on the Coillite section at Drewstown, local groups noticed lizards bathing on the cross beams and were interested in finding out more. In March 2021, a Zoom workshop was organised by the local community in association with Birdwatch Ireland Meath branch and the Herpetological Society of Ireland. Field trips were curtailed due to Covid 19 but a group of individuals began doing some survey work following advice on survey methods from the HSI. Survey work was patchy in 2021 but 9 surveys were done and 26 lizards spotted in the first year. In 2022, further surveys conducted in the area of the bog bridge counted 49 lizards.

If you would like to learn about lizards and take part in surveys in 2024, text 087-9712072 to join our whatsapp group.

Lola the lizard



She walked up to me and she asked me to dance
I asked her her name and in a dark brown voice
she said Lola



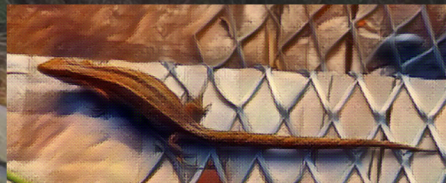


RTB
WADZ

RECLAIM THE BOGS!

Reclaim the streets began in urban areas as a collective with a shared ideal of community ownership of public spaces, or commons*. Reclaiming the bogs could mean restoring, rewetting or rehabilitating the bog as a commons, for all the wildlife that lives there and people too who are part of the landscape and connected to it.

*The natural and cultural wealth that belongs to all of life, such as air, water, forests, bogs, libraries, and the Internet
(wikipedia)



Sphagnum moss

Sphagnum moss you are terrific
You make your habitat acidic
You live in places moist and aquatic
Your colours really are fantastic
Your spores explode to reproduce
Your hummocks can be dense or loose
You help preserve stuff from our past
Your worth is truly unsurpassed.



Bog Layers

RECIPE

*moss cake

THE CATOTELM (CAKE LAYERS)

250g Fresh Baby Leaf Spinach

275g Vegetable Oil, 4 Large eggs

275g Caster Sugar, 275g Self Raising Flour

1 tsp Bicarbonate of Soda, Zest of a Lemon

THE ACROTTEL (ICING AND CRUMBS LAYER))

250g Tub Full Fat Marscapone Cheese

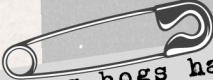
60g Sieved Icing Sugar, Juice of a lemon

200ml Double Cream, 200g Fresh Mixed berries

METHOD TO MAKE THE BOG LAYERS MOSS CAKE

Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees C. Grease and line two 8" cake tins. Put the spinach and half the vegetable oil in a food processor and mix until smooth. Keep adding more oil until it is all used and it is nice and smooth. Add the sugar, eggs and lemon zest and mix together. Then the flour and bicarbonate of soda. Mix until fully incorporated. Divide the mixture between the two tins and place in pre-heated oven for 35 minutes or until skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in tin. Cover with berries & plants to form the living layer.

*not actual moss



Active growing bogs have two layers - a thin living surface layer of peat-forming plants up to 40 cm or so deep (the acrotelm), and a permanently soggy store of peat soil which may be metres deep (the catotelm)

recipe: <https://www.sarahsslice.co.uk/post/sarah-s-moss-cake>

Past

Additional forms of work (peat mining, traction, fossil fuel, peat compost, shareholders)

Past

Additional forms of
work (peat mining,
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Future







New forms of work & economies of care an reciprocity incorporating social and environmental wellbeing

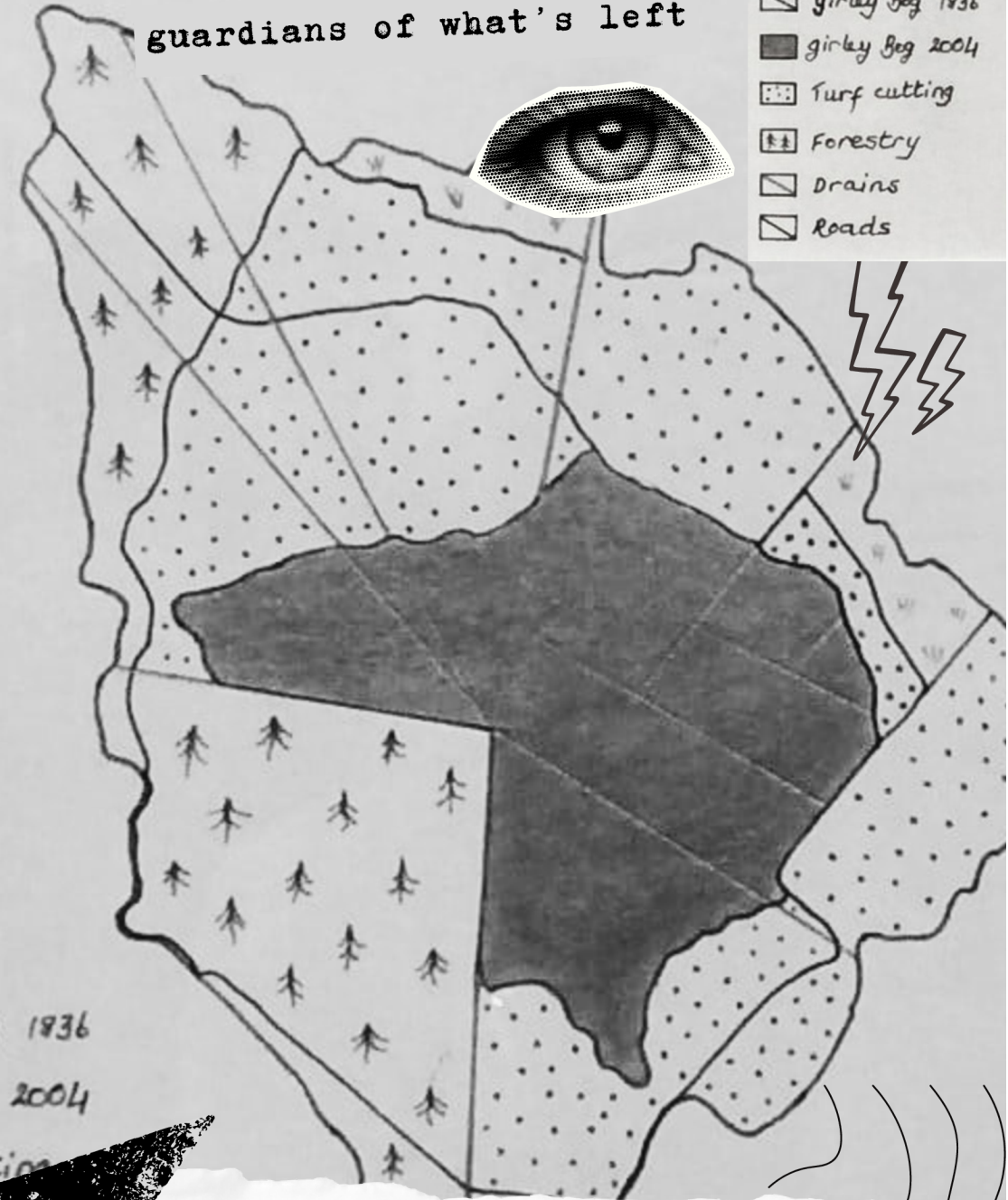


Rootedness



guardians of what's left

-  girley Bog 1936
-  girley Bog 2004
-  Turf cutting
-  Forestry
-  Drains
-  Roads



Girley Bog was over 470 acres (191 ha) in size when it was mapped in the seventeenth and 18th centuries. Now approximately 138 acres (56 ha) of uncut high bog remains, the area in grey.

come and explore

The bog Cabinet of Curiosities



Appearing in Renaissance Europe, the 'cabinet of curiosities' is an ancestor of the modern museum. They played a fundamental role in the development of modern science, even if they weren't always that 'scientific'.

take a moment to investigate the cabinet and its objects, to think about their histories and futures. Take a postcard, leave a note, a song, look, listen, draw, write, or just remember in a spirit of reciprocity, exploring 'the space between stimulus and response' Victor Frankl



blog apOTHeCaRy

BEING(S) IN THE BOG

Spending time in nature in woodlands, bogs and fields improves our health and contributes to feelings of wellbeing. Walking in nature has been shown to reduce stress, fatigue, anxiety and depression, boosts our immune systems and can improve concentration. Many people recall childhoods spent on the bog, cutting turf, playing in the fresh air, and the great appetite a day on the bog would give you. Although not many people cut turf anymore, we can still spend time in the bog and get to know the plants, animals and other creatures that live there. If you feel you need a boost, these 'Bog Prescriptions' will hopefully give you some ideas to slow down and spend time in nature.



Rx

1 x bog walk

3 times a week





BOG PRESCRIPTIONS



Go wandering, to the bog, or a woodland or your favourite local place. Have no aim, get lost, ramble. Do nothing or notice everything. Get lost in time.

Get up before dawn some damp autumn day and visit the bog to see the shimmering of spider's webs covered in dew, opening up a world normally invisible to human eyes.



Create a new bog ritual related to your senses. Listen to the wind, or the silence, sniff out the smells of the bog, touch a plant or a tree, bend to touch the soil, taste a cranberry, be still.

Bogs shrink and expand due to changes in water levels, a phenomenon known as bog breathing. Next time you visit a bog, feel the peat soil beneath your feet. Imagine you are breathing in time with the bog. Slowly.

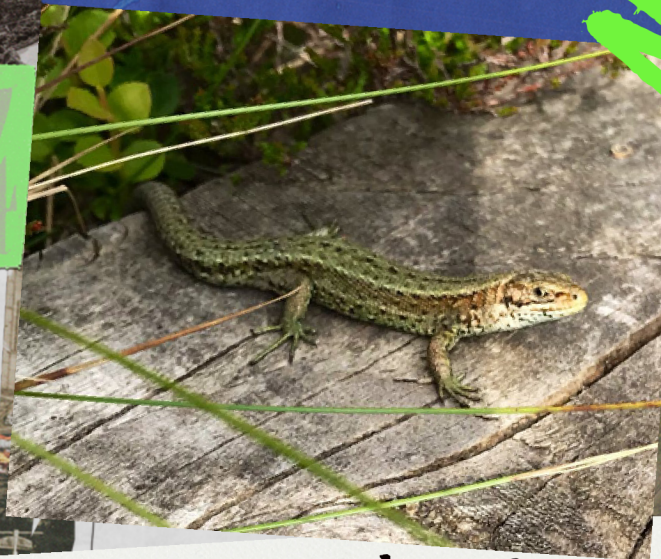


Next time you visit a bog, feel the peat soil beneath your feet. Is it wet or dry, is the peat bare or has it plants growing on it? Bare peat is a source of carbon. How can we ensure the peat soil keeps its covering of life-giving plants?

Can you find the quietest place at your local bog or nature walk. Can you find a place where you can become invisible? Watch what happens when you recede.



IRELAND'S ONLY NATIVE TERRESTRIAL REPTILE.



This is my home

If you would like to contribute content to the
next edition of Bog Subcultures, get in touch.

www.abogslife.com

Kate Flood 2023

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