



REPORT

Green Foundation Ireland presents a
TALK by Donna Mullen

Making Your Home a Nature Reserve



Demonstrating the building of bat boxes

Venue: Golashane Nature Reserve, Tierworker, Kells, Co Meath
(Eircode: A82 VE86)

Wednesday 22 May 2019 – 8:00pm

*This event is part of the National Biodiversity Week 2019
organised by Irish Environmental Network*

We were astonished at the level of interest in this event, with 90 people expressing an interest in tickets. However as we wanted to show a home nature reserve in action in a house, we had to limit the numbers to 30 people, and 25-30 people showed up.

The event started with a talk by **Donna Mullen** who then took everyone around her home to show the adaptations for wildlife – including letterbox openings into the attic and slates for bat access. **Brian Keeley** also explained the workings of bat boxes. There was much interest in the information on animal psychology, as many of the people who came were involved in animal rescue.

Then everyone met the animals which we have fostered from the **Kildare Animal Foundation Wildlife Rescue**, and we had a discussion on the reintroduction of hedgehogs on the farm. Pippin, the injured bat, was a great success and allowed people to see a bat closely as she munched on her food.

Next there was a chance to see the wild animals, as we brought out bat detectors and listened to bats calling in the darkness. Some intrepid explorers hiked down to the large pond so they could see the newts.

We took over the garden and built 15 bat boxes. The participants brought them home with them and at least two people wanted to replicate them in local woodworking classes.

Finally the event finished outdoors with tea and large amounts of chocolate cake, while the bats whizzed above our heads. The weather was warm and it was a wonderful evening.

***DONNA MULLEN, Director
Green Foundation Ireland***

27 May 2019