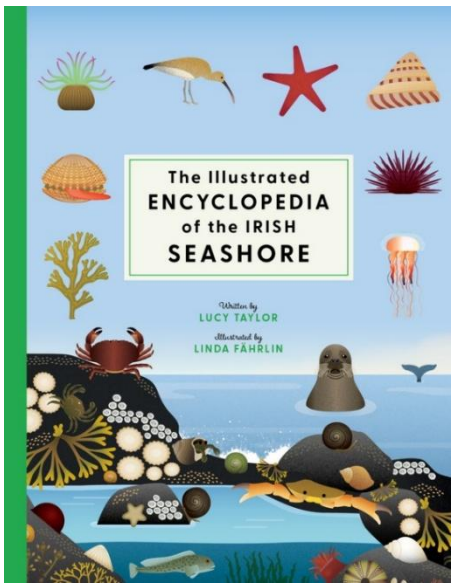
REPORT

Green Foundation Ireland, in partnership with the Dublin Book Festival and TU Dublin, held a Schools Workshop with author Lucy Taylor and illustrator Linda Fährlin

The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Irish Seashore



Venue: **Room LH-231, Lower House, TU Dublin, Grangegorman, Dublin, D07 N6R2**

Wednesday 5 November 2025 – 10:00 to 11:00

The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Irish Seashore

THEME

As part of the **Dublin Book Festival** sustainability theme, author **Lucy Taylor** and illustrator **Linda Fährlin** of the newly published ***The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Irish Seashore*** *(Gill Books, 2025)* conducted a workshop with teachers and children from the local Paradise Place Educate Together and Stanhope Street primary schools.

The workshop was facilitated by **Eileen McDermott** of Green Foundation Ireland.

PLEASE NOTE:
Due to the nature of this type of event, this workshop was not open to the general public.

This event was part of the Dublin Book Festival Sustainability Here and Now

As sustainability remains one of the most pressing issues of our time, staff, students and the public are invited to join us for a day of stimulating, thought-provoking and inspiring events at TU Dublin's Grangegorman campus.

Featuring authors whose writing explores sustainable development themes with depth, clarity and actionable insight, discussions will cover everything from agriculture in the age of climate change and the rich world of urban wildlife, to the value of rewilding, and how the oppression of a people cannot go unchallenged.

ABOUT OUR GUEST FACILITATORS

Lucy Taylor

Lucy, who lives beside the sea in County Kerry, is deeply passionate about sharing her appreciation for the natural world. As a qualified marine biologist, she brings a wealth of experience from her work in education, research, SCUBA diving, and nature conservation. She is the author of ***Ireland's Seashore: A Field Guide*** *(The Collins Press, 2018)*.

Linda Fährlin

Linda is an artist and illustrator inspired by the wild Atlantic Ocean and rugged the landscape of the north-west of Ireland, where she lives. Her previous illustration work includes ***The Great Irish Science Book*** *(Gill Books, 2019)* and ***The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Irish Lighthouses*** *(Gill Books, 2024).*

ABOUT OUR WORKSHOP

Olivia Freeman, Sustainability Education Lead at TU Dublin, welcomed everyone to this new collaboration. She stated: *"We would encourage academic staff to bring class groups to the talks and incorporate it into their discussions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to hear from the leading thought-leaders on biodiversity, nature restoration, land use and global conflict."*

The workshop highlighted that Ireland's seashores are far more than places for building sandcastles and enjoying picnics. They are teeming with fascinating plants and animals, ready to be discovered. The book, filled with vibrant illustrations, takes young readers on an adventure through tidal rock pools, along sandy beaches, and across rocky cliffs, introducing them to the myriad creatures inhabiting our seas and shores – from playful dolphins to tiny crabs and mysterious shells.

Recognising that children possess a natural curiosity and wonder as they explore the world around them, Lucy and Linda ensured the workshop was both engaging and interactive. Their presentation captivated the children, who were given the chance to participate artistically. Under Linda's guidance, they were provided with drawing materials and encouraged to create their own illustrations of the remarkable seashore creatures they learned about.

Through this active hands-on experience, the children not only discovered the unique plants, habitats, and ecosystems of the Irish seashore but also delved into the science behind waves and tides. Thanks to this inspiring session, the seashore will represent much more than just sandcastles and picnics for these young children in the future.

Green Foundation Ireland extends sincere thanks to all the children and their teachers for their enthusiastic participation in the event. As a gesture of appreciation, each teacher was presented with a copy of ***The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Irish Seashore*** to continue this important conversation and exploration with their students.

Many thanks to **Brian Gormley**, Director of Green Foundation Ireland and Head of Sustainability Education at TU Dublin, for organising this event in collaboration with the Dublin Book Festival.

*You can **see photos of our workshop here**.*

Eileen McDermott, Director
Green Foundation Ireland ***24 November 2025***