R E P O R T

Green Foundation Ireland, along with
Connecting Cabra, invite you to an
in-person afternoon talk with
wildlife gardener and author, Ciarán De Buitléar

Gardening for Nature

followed by Film Screenings about restoring Cabra

Venue: **Christ the King Church**
Offaly Road, Cabra, Dublin, D07 N2Y1

Saturday 23 May 2026 – 14:00

This event is part of the National Biodiversity Week 2026
organised by Irish Environmental Network

TALK: "Gardening for Nature" followed by Film Screenings

THEME

OUR TALK – "Gardening for Nature"

Ciarán De Buitléar, author and wildlife gardener, talked about his book ***Nature's Acre*** and gave tips on gardening for wildlife. The book is a true story about a small Irish garden, mental health, and learning to live with wildlife instead of against it. A wildlife-garden diary, community story and account of holding a nervous system together with soil under the fingernails, Ciarán talked about his story behind the book, and gave tips on wildlife gardening.

OUR FILM SCREENINGS – Resilient Cabra: Stories of People, Place, Nature and Water

Our talk was followed by a relaxed screening of films and stories all about Cabra – its people, its nature, and the places we share. We showed two short films on the River Bradogue, flooding in the area, and some of the nature restoration work happening locally. There was also a short documentary ***The Tolka – This is Your River***, which flows right past Cabra.

This event was part of the National Biodiversity Week 2026
organised by Irish Environmental Network
and
Cabra Biodiversity Festival.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Ciarán De Buitléar:

Ciarán De Buitléar is the husband of Fiona and dad to Sam and Zack. Born and raised in Dublin, he has made his home in Stamullen, County Meath for many years. By day he works as a database specialist in the tech world. In his spare time he has spent decades cultivating gardens that are as much about nature as they are about beauty.

He founded **Gardeningwell**, an initiative for wildlife gardening and climate action. A trustee of **Free Trees Ireland**, he has helped distribute thousands of native trees across the country. ***Nature's Acre*** is Ciarán's first book. It shows how ordinary gardening can sit within Ireland's tradition of writing about nature – while staying accessible to anyone, anywhere. His writing blends practical, sustainable gardening with expressive storytelling and a wry sense of humour, drawing together plants, a sense of place, and a personal recovery.

ABOUT CONNECTING CABRA

Connecting Cabra is a volunteer-led group dedicated to creating a more sustainable, resilient Cabra, with community connection at the heart of everything they do. They take meaningful local action on sustainable energy, biodiversity and community wellbeing.

Their projects focus on practical, on-the-ground improvements, from supporting local wildlife and promoting sustainable energy and food-growing systems, to encouraging active travel, circular-economy practices and stronger community ties.

ABOUT OUR TALK

There was a high attendance at our talk, with great energy in the room and amongst the audience.

Ciarán talked about his story behind the book, and gave tips on wildlife gardening. There was a lot of audience engagement, and much discussion about how to manage pests without pesticides and chemicals, and using native plants.

Ciarán is very active on social media, and you can follow his work on **@gardeningwell** on Instagram.

ABOUT OUR FILM SCREENINGS

This part of our event featured a screening of short films produced by TU Dublin media students about local nature restoration and flooding in Cabra, followed by the acclaimed documentary ***The Tolka: This is Your River***. This powerful film explores the history, challenges, and restoration of the River Tolka, highlighting the role of community action in environmental recovery.

After the screening attendees participated in a short discussion featuring:

- **Brian Gormley** from Green Foundation Ireland
- **Éanna Gallagher** from **LAWPRO**
- **Toby O'Mahony Adams** from **Treasure the Tolka**

Éanna spoke about the ongoing efforts to improve water quality in Dublin's rivers. He went on to highlight the significance of policy, monitoring and public engagement, and emphasised the importance of collaboration between agencies and communities.

Toby shared Treasure the Tolka's story of practical, grassroots actions including removal of rubbish and debris from the river. He continued by outlining an ambitious community goal to clear the River Tolka from Finglas to the Tolka Estuary within the year. There was also an opportunity for people to sign up to Treasure the Tolka.

Brian Gormley introducing film screenings

Toby O'Mahony Adams of Treasure the Tolka

Conclusion

Feedback indicated that both the talk and film screenings were informative, engaging, and motivating, and demonstrated how local engagement, storytelling, and practical action can come together to create meaningful environmental impact.

Green Foundation Ireland recognises this event as an excellent example of community-driven sustainability in action and looks forward to supporting further initiatives that connect people with nature and empower local environmental leadership.

You can see more photos of our event here.

Green Foundation Ireland ***26 May 2026***