

# Dublin Region Autumn Gathering

**Bushy Park Dublin 6**  
**Sat 17th Oct**  
**11am-2pm**

Host: Ruairí Shelley

Host: Ross Wareham

Ruairí grew up at the foot of the Dublin mountains; her forests and rivers were his playground. Folklore, traditions and heritage were his passions early on, connecting to prehistoric sites, and how these places came to be, finding excuses to always draw peers and friends to such places. These threads were woven together through Forest School training and manifested by starting his Forest School in Bushy Park on the Dodder river, giving him the chance to be the bow to the kids arrows, sharing the forest together.

Ross has been playing in the woods and bodging things since he was big enough to run wild and hold onto tools. Growing up in semi-rural NE England surrounded by woodland, meadows and rivers he spent all his childhood absorbed within nature. He was practicing bushcraft and woodlore before the names were coined, learning to be proficient with knives, saws and axes well ahead of any health and safety rules and he still has all digits intact. Since seemingly reaching adult maturity, he is still playing in the woods but now has the privilege to pass his skills onto the next generation.



# West Region

## Autumn Gathering

Lees Road, Ennis, Co.

Clare

Sun 18th Oct

11am-2pm

Hosts: Gráinne Vaughan & Veronica McGuire  
Gráinne and Veronica were friends for many years before beginning their Forest School Leadership Training together in 2015. A shared vision of offering children and adults opportunities for personal growth through nature connection led them to establish Happy Out Forest School in March 2017. Since then, Gráinne and Veronica have enjoyed the camaraderie of working together and find that they make a great partnership. Both are grateful for the friendship and support of each other as they grow in their own spiritual, emotional and mental wellbeing through their Forest School practice. Happy Out Forest School currently runs forest school programmes and woodland camps for children in County Clare at Lee's Road, Ennis and at Woodpark, Mountshannon.



Irish Forest  
School Association

# North Region Autumn Gathering

**Host: Amy Dixon**

**Glasswater Wood,  
Co. Down  
Sat 17th Oct  
12.30-3.30pm**

Amy set up Wandering Wild in 2018 but it was a dream she had harboured for years. After graduating with a degree in Conservation Management she then went onto working with young adults with Autism in community gardens. Ten years later she trained in Forest School and qualified in 2017 as a level 3 practitioner. Wandering Wild runs a regular after-school club as well as family events, community group sessions and specialises in early years "muddy tots". In her own words: 'My interest has always been in nature conservation. It was after having children myself that I explored Forest Schools and discovered my true passion'.



**Irish Forest  
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# South Region

## Autumn Gathering

Killeagh, Co. Cork

Sun 18th Oct

11am-2pm

**Hosts: Niamh  
Geoghegan & Rob  
Ireson**



**Niamh Geoghegan** is passionate about reconnecting people with nature. She is particularly interested in how belonging, creativity and imagination can support positive change for ourselves, our communities and our natural environment. Niamh brings 20 years of experience in youth and community education and wellbeing to her role as founder, programmer and lead facilitator at Humanature. She has been coordinating and co-facilitating the Mucky Boots Forest School Programme since 2015. More info available at <https://humanature.ie/>

**Rob Ireson** is a sculptor who engages in collaborative creative work and runs ongoing Forest School and nature connection sessions in Glenbower woods and the surrounding areas with the support of Greywood Arts. He has also assisted at both The Phoenix Park and Mucky Boots Forest School.



**Irish Forest  
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# North-West Region Autumn Gathering

**Host: Trisha MacLaughlin**

**Clevaragh Forest,  
Co. Sligo  
Sat 17th Oct  
11am-2pm**

Patricia MacLaughlin is the owner of Sligo Woodland School following the principles of the Forest School model. She opened in 2017 running holiday Forest Camps for children 0-14yrs, Woodland Parent&Toddler group, a wide range of outdoor sessions for Families and Community Projects and runs a Preschool. Patricia has worked in both the Early Childhood Care Education and Community Development sectors for many years as a practitioner, researcher and lecturer.



**Irish Forest  
School Association**