

National Heritage Week 2025

Milltown Heritage Group

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Archaeology of medieval and early-modern farming on the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned road project, Co Galway

Presentation and discussion about the finds and redevelopment of the site



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Ancestral home of Hugh Carey, fondly remembered as Milltown's most famous son (US House of Representatives 1961-1974; Governor of New York City 1975-1982)





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Archaeology Open Day on the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned road project





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Smithying hearth.
Photo: Jerry O'Sullivan





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LIFESTYLE



Bringing history to life

ONE of the birds that had a ring after last year's free ringing event in Milltown.

Schools and heritage group working with Natural History Museum

CONNOR from Milltown and Belmont National schools helped bring their research on local wildlife and heritage to life in Milltown Park last week. The schools have been working with Milltown Heritage group in a collaborative research project with the Natural History Museum of Ireland.

The Milltown Heritage group has been exploring the area's natural heritage and its connection to local traditions, stories, environments, and way of life. The final results will form part of a natural exhibition that shines a light on how nature and culture are deeply intertwined.

Pupils at Milltown NS have been working on the folk tale. They've explored the native species and its place in local culture and heritage. They found that the folk tale is a powerful symbol in Irish folklore and that it is a living link between Ireland, Dublin and Carrigrohilly. The Irish and Belmont classes at Milltown NS have been researching local wildlife and their work has been collated into a book on animals in the area. Both schools came together last week to showcase their projects with a display of art, music, stories



CONNOR from Milltown and Belmont National schools helped bring their research on local wildlife and heritage to life in Milltown Park last week.



and poetry in Milltown's prime park. Importantly, the gathering took place at the warstone site which itself has a long history. The warstone site, known as Leas na Tine, was the birthplace of the heron's nesting house in Milltown. The house served as a central gathering place in the area for over 600 years. Families and community members came

together around the open hearth to be warmed by the turf fire and the sharing of music, stories and song. On these occasions, stories, folktales, songs and songs were shared and so preserving cultural knowledge and history in an intimate, communal setting. When that a single seed, it was a symbol of connection, storytelling, and cultural exchange.

The heronstone continues to serve as a place for people to gather, ensuring this traditional culture the generations to come. It was during that the children gathered at the site to bring their history and heritage projects to life. As part of the two-day showcase, the school children were delighted to take part in a bird ringing demonstration by Chris Bennett.



ADAMS PUPILS Milltown and Belmont national schools caught up with Frank Doyle of Milltown Heritage group during the performance at Milltown park.



FRANK DOYLE of Milltown Heritage group, a pupil from Milltown NS, releases a bird during the bird ringing demonstration at Milltown.



PUPILS from Milltown and Belmont National schools performed as part of the story for large event of the fair walk in Milltown.



LARSEN from Milltown NS speak about their project on folk animals.



PAULINE Curran from Milltown Heritage giving a talk to school children at the fair walk in Milltown.



CHRISTOPHER MURPHY a pupil from Milltown NS releases a bird under the watchful eyes of Chris Bennett of Milltown Park.



LARSEN Curran and Francesa Brown, pupils from Belmont NS, speak about their project on the folk heritage event in Milltown.

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Crows nesting
Photo: Declan Flattery



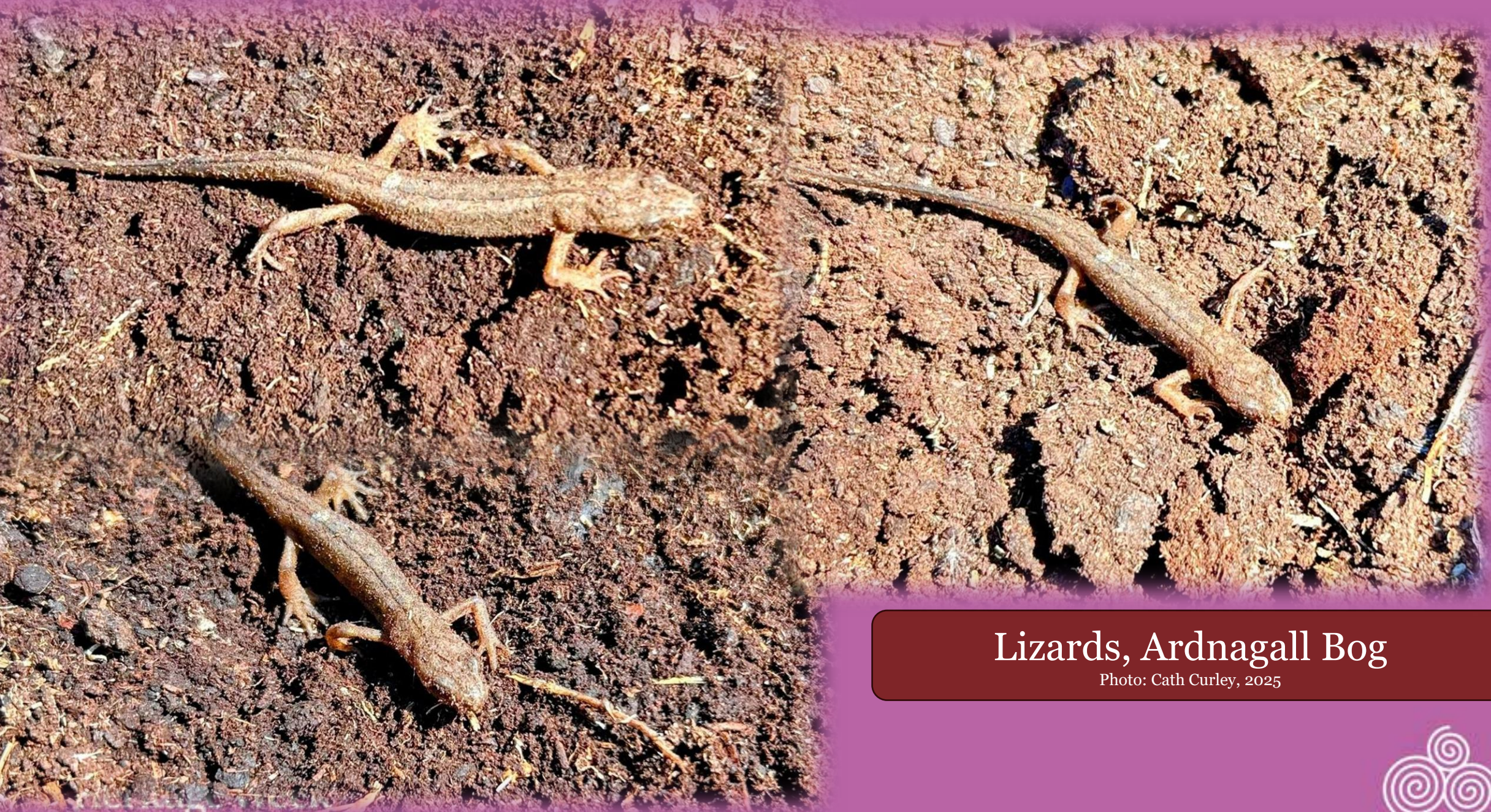


Lizards, Ardnagall Bog

Photo: Cath Curley, 2025

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Lizards, Ardnagall Bog

Photo: Cath Curley, 2025





Photo by C Curley

The Children of Lir

Poster by Milltown Brownies





MALLARD
(Mallard): 60cm.
Our most familiar duck species.
Males are easily identified by their
brilliant green heads, the white neck collar,
chestnut breast and yellow beak.
Females look quite different, being mottled
brown all over for better camouflage.
This duck never dives completely under
the surface of the water, but rather spends
its feed on aquatic vegetation.



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01/10/20



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The Ash Tree



On the hill standing tall
Lies the Ash tree that will never fall.
Connecting three schools together as one,
It started when John Bermingham had a son.
His son Michael got Dalgin House.
But what he wished for was a spouse.
From Belmont House he met sweet Sarah,
It was the start of a new era.
So off they went to live on the mound
Where they grew a special bond.
With each other they grew old
Until they died and turned to mould.
Under that special Ash, they lie together.
Connecting Dalgin & Belmont forever.
Dalgin and Belmont schools came together as one.
This was easier said than done.

On the other side of the hill,
Lays Carnageehy calm and still.
From that school in a certain place,
You'll be able to turn and face
That gorgeous Ash in all its glory.
Which beholds this wonderful story.

Belmont and Carnageehy together for sport,
Teamed up with pride of the finest sport.
The Cumann na mBunscol cup they did lift.
To everyone it was a gift.

Sadly for Carnageehy they failed to stay
Open for some more days.
Joined as we tried to do,
It didn't work and we felt blue.

Our heritage is tied up in that ash tree,
Belmont, Dalgin & Carnageehy.

By Fionnuala Ruane



The Ash Tree



Ash tree standing tall, everyone watching the leaves fall.
Connecting three schools together,
Connecting them forever and ever.

Looking out the window of Belmont NS seeing a tree up high on the hill,
Children asking the story behind it, teacher having to tell them all about it.

Michael Birmingham of Dalgin, wanting to marry a young spouse,
Later marrying Sarah of Belmont house.
Later moving in with her, looking at the great view out,
Looking out in the sunny sky, looking at the ash tree, good and high.

Michael and Sarah had a son, but shortly after that their lives were done.

Carnageehy on the other side of the tree is very creepy, for it shut down in 2014.
The students were very sad, but they knew it would have ended bad anyways.

By Meadhbh Ruane



My Ash Tree Poem

When the sky is a fright the ash tree will always be the
light in the dark night.
The fairies are high in the sky dancing through the night.
Three schools connected that will never be ended.

By Alison Connolly



The Ash Tree

*The Ash tree up on the hill tells stories full of thrill.
Uniting schools such as Belmont, Dalgin and Carrageehy.
Carrageehy used to be full of glee but now is gathering dust, very fleet.
Dalgin was ecstatic and jolly but now is a shack.
Belmont has plenty of students all nice to each other like they're living in one big House.
In Dalgin there was a manor which to this story is an important matter.
Micheal and Sarah were husband and wife. They loved each other for most of their life.
But Micheal had a father and that father died doing what he loved most, watching stars in the sky.
Now back to the nice part, Micheal and Sarah their life filled with glee. But when they passed away,
They were buried under the one and only ash tree.
That is not the end they had one son which carried the legacy till 1918.*

Zachary Fleming



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The Ash Tree

*The big great Ash tree standing nice and tall
Surrounded by some rocks around
Then it brought three schools together*

*With light and power
It will never let anything
Get in its way
Just to shine in its very own
Special way.*



By Lauren Connolly

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The Ash Tree

Ash tree standing tall
And straight upon on a hill
Connecting these three schools
Belmont, Carnageehy, and Dalgin N.S,
Although the tree looks a little boring,
deep inside we LOVE our ash tree.



By Conor Burke



The Ash Tree

The Ash Tree is standing tall and strong.
The bare branches blowing in the wind
Connecting three schools together, having fun all
together.

Two are well gone now, Carnagheey and Dalgin
school.
But from this day forward Belmont school will never fall.

If the Ash Tree was never there on that mighty big hill.
The three schools would have never been together.

By Ashling Kirrane



The Ash Tree

Ash Tree on a hill
Belmont N.S lies to the north,
Carnageehy to the south,
Dalgin to the east.
De Bermingham of Dalgin
Lived long in Dalgin house
Belmont N.S shares its name
With Belmont house.
Ash before oak a soak
Oak before Ash a splash

By Croía Cunningham





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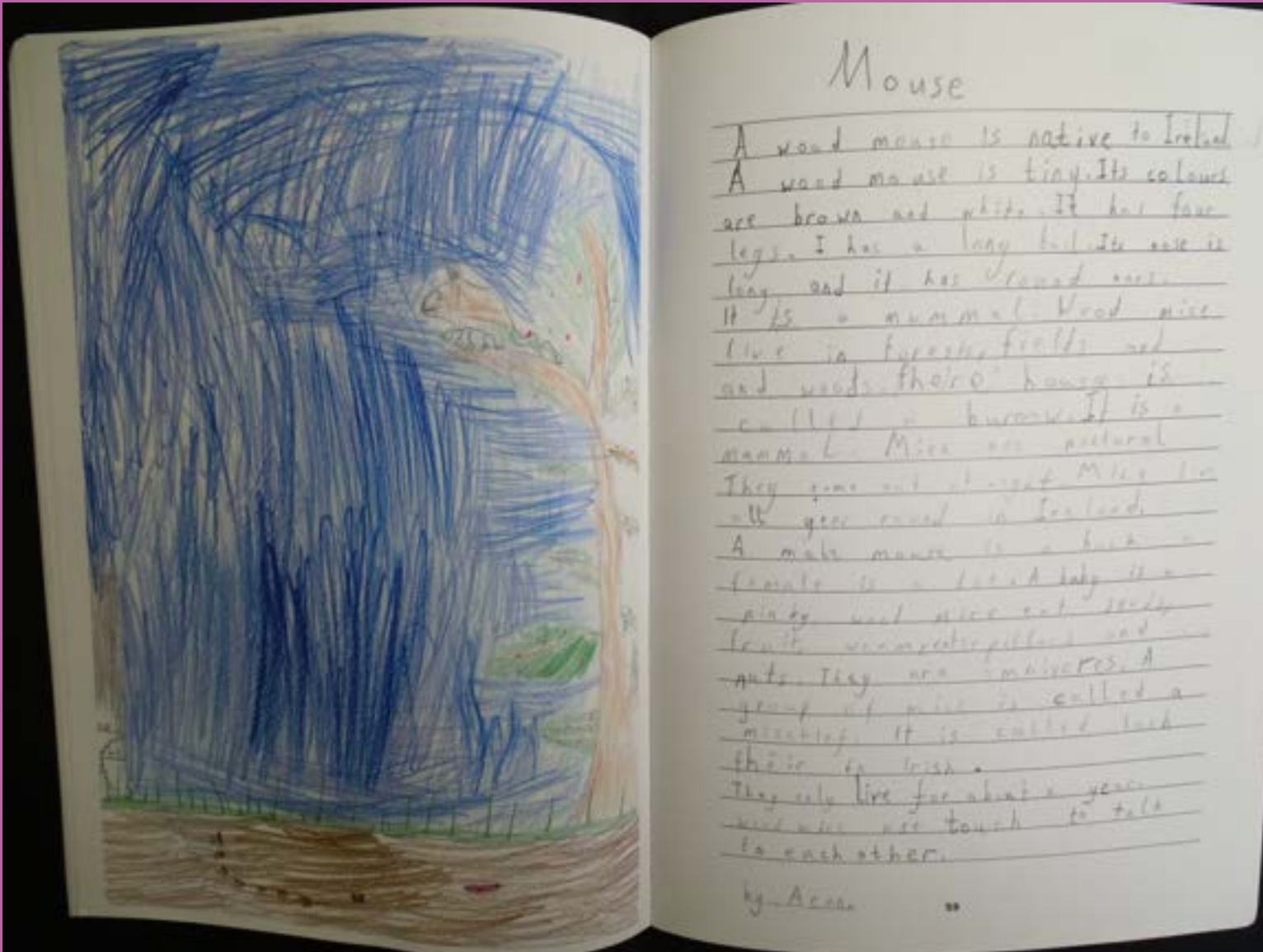




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Mouse

A wood mouse is native to Ireland.
A wood mouse is tiny. Its colours are brown and white. It has four legs. It has a long tail. Its ears are long and it has rounded ones.
It is a mammal. Wood mice live in forests, fields and woods. Their home is called a burrow. It is a mammal. Mice are nocturnal. They come out at night. Mice live all year round in Ireland.
A male mouse is a buck. A female is a doe. A baby is a piggy. Wood mice eat seeds, fruit, vegetables, plants and nuts. They are omnivores. A group of mice is called a mischief. It is called that because they are mischievous.
They only live for about a year. Wood mice are tough to talk to each other.

by Anna



Photo: Courtesy of John Gavin

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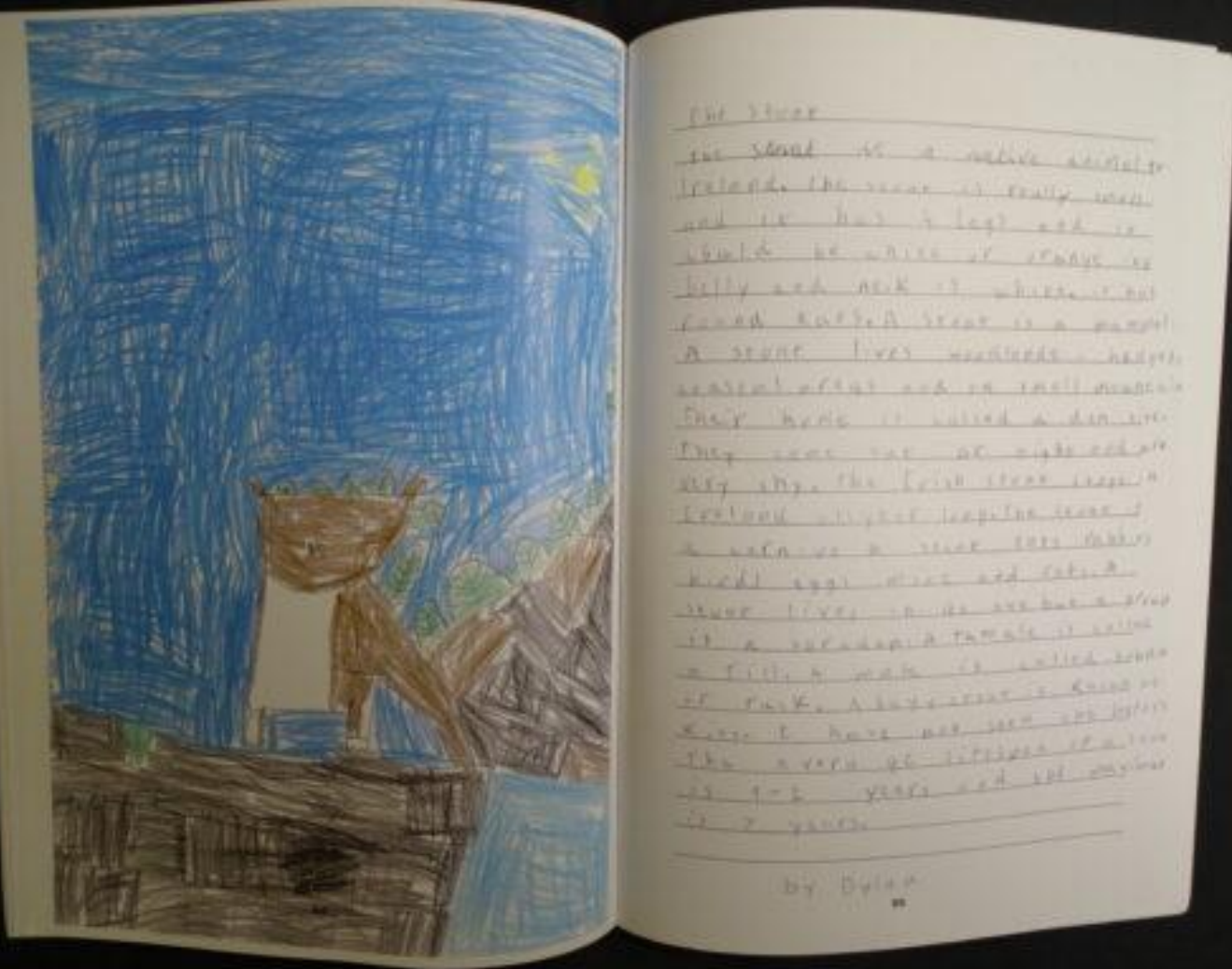
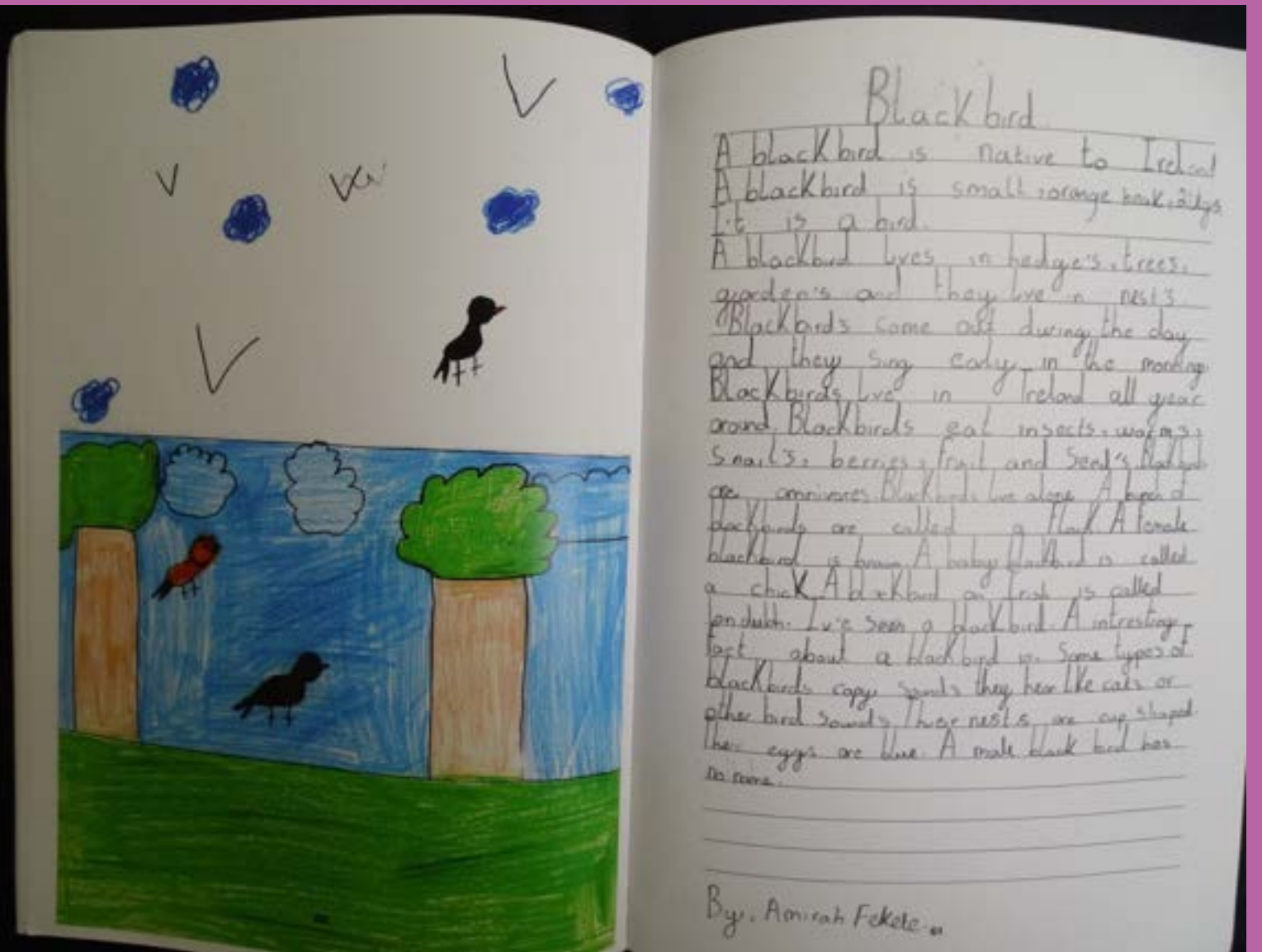


Photo: Courtesy of John Gavin





Photo: Courtesy of John Gavin



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Swallow
Fun Facts



Robin
Fun Facts



Crow's Nest
Signs of Weather and Stories
from the Past



Ladybird
Fun Facts



Mouse
Fun Facts



Swan
Swan-tastic Fun Facts



Lizard
Fun Facts



Blackbird
Fun Facts



Hare
Ireland's Oldest Mammal





[Salmon](#)
Meet the River Clare's Most Famous Fish



[Badger](#)
Fun Facts



[Mallard Ducks](#)
Milltown



[Barn Owls](#)
Mysterious Night-Time Hunter



[Butterfly](#)
Fun facts



[Stoat](#)
lives quietly among us



[Drone Footage of the River Clare](#)
Overview of our local river



[The Lurgan Canoe](#)
Milltown Newsletter 1993



[Grey Heron and Otter](#)
near Milltown Park

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[Pine Martens](#)
Guardian of the Forest



[The River Clare: A Lifeline of Culture, Nature, and Heritage](#)



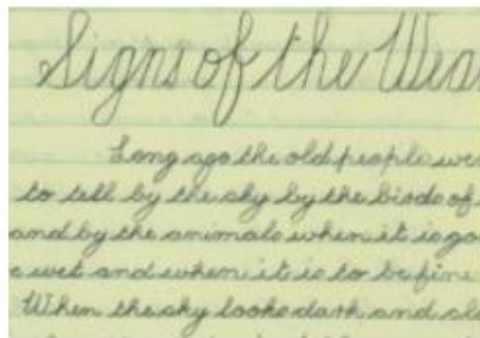
[A Day in the Bog](#)
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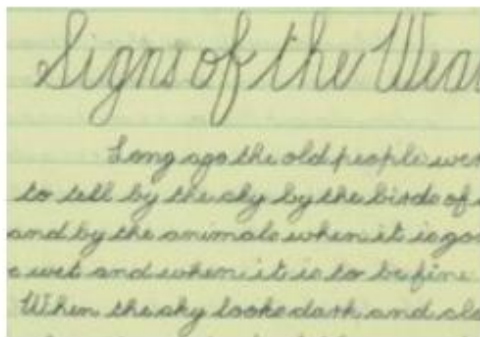
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[The Hedgehog \(5\)](#)



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[Irish Animals \(28\)](#)

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