



# Mayo Recording Event 2018

Eamonn Delaney in Ireland  
Louise Marsh in UK

# Advertised on the BSBI meetings page

## Meetings

### Field and indoor meetings

Scroll down to find out about our main national botany meetings this year across Britain & Ireland.

Some are General meetings suitable for everyone, beginner or expert; some are focused on Training, or Recording for [Atlas 2020](#), and some are aimed at the more experienced botanist (these are marked 'Specialist').

Most are free to attend and you don't need to be a [BSBI member](#), although if there are more applicants than spaces available, we reserve the right to prioritise our members.

You can also find out about botany meetings in your area by checking our [Local Botany](#) page.



[www.bsbi.org/field-meetings](http://www.bsbi.org/field-meetings)

- 
- Main recording event of 2018 for BSBI Ireland
  - Ran from 08<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August
  - Followed on from 2015 Mayo recording week where 42 botanists collected 10,824 plant records
  - Could we match that total in 2018?

# We didn't hang around!



**BSBI** @BSBIbotany · Aug 8

No sooner had Fred Rumsey, author of the [#BSBIhandbook](#) on Eyebrights, landed at Knock airport en route to [#BSBIMayo2018](#), than he spotted some Eyebrights!





- **Event aimed to assist with recording for BSBI Atlas 2020**
- **Sought to provide records for East & West Mayo**
- **Botanists, ecologists and nature lovers of all levels ...**
- **Seasoned recorders, national experts, improvers and absolute beginners, young and old ...**
- **All worked together to records as many plants as possible**

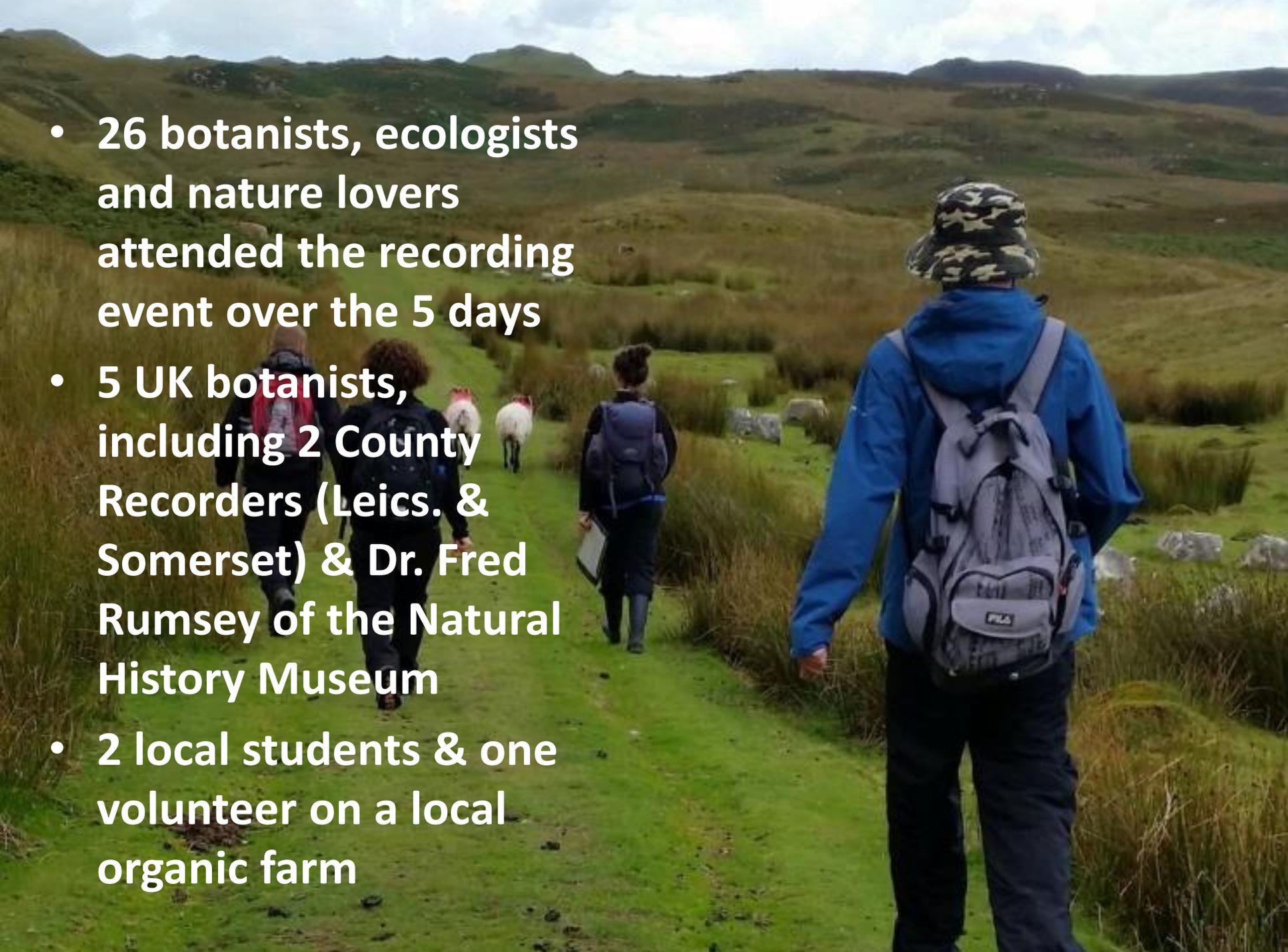


**Event based out of two  
locations**

**Clare Island: 08<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
August**

**Castlebar: 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August**

- 26 botanists, ecologists and nature lovers attended the recording event over the 5 days
- 5 UK botanists, including 2 County Recorders (Leics. & Somerset) & Dr. Fred Rumsey of the Natural History Museum
- 2 local students & one volunteer on a local organic farm



- Groups of 4-6 botanists set off across the island each morning
- On the morning of August 09<sup>th</sup>, the 'Rough Crew' mounted Knockmore, the highest point in Clare Island
- Efforts yielded holly-fern, dwarf willow, roseroot, Wilson's filmy-fern, mountain sorrel and moss campion



- **We ran into Irish TV presenter Duncan Stewart of the weekly environmental programme Eco-eye (Ireland's version of Countryfile)!**
- **Splinter group of botanists led by Dr. Rory Hodd headed off to another island for 24 hours and captured over 100 records!**



Other notable finds included the gametophyte of Killarney fern (which in Victorian times was collected so intensively it almost went extinct), marsh clubmoss, pale butterwort and cranberry.

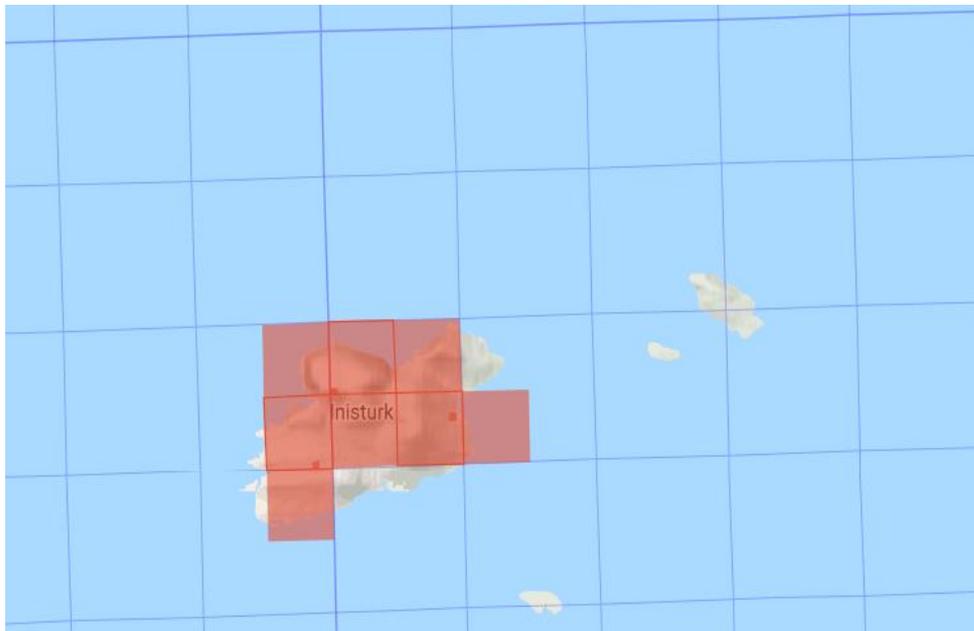
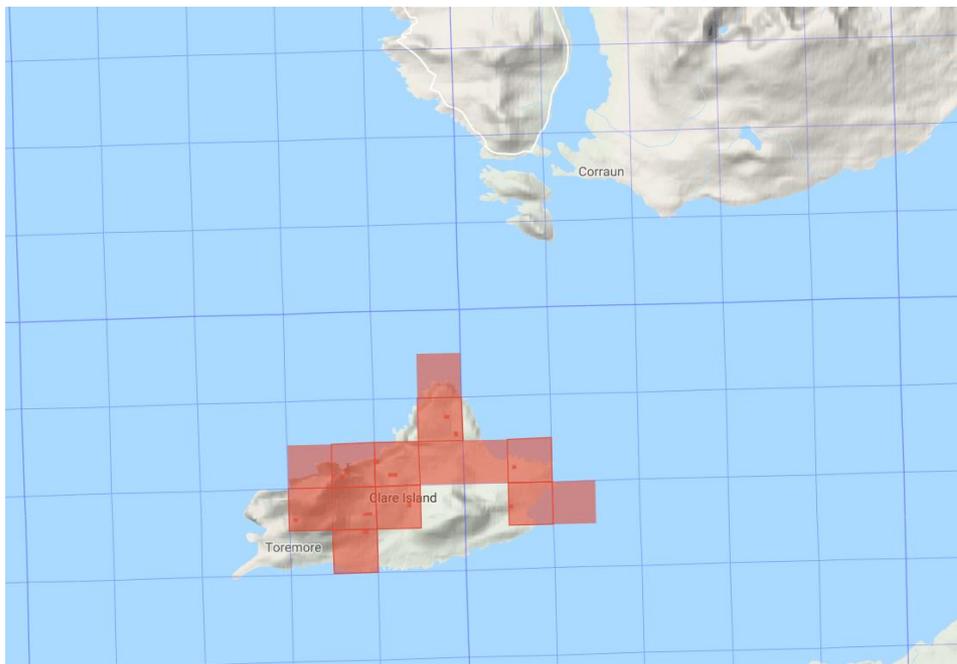


A photograph of Roseroot plants (Roselia) growing in a natural, rocky environment. The plants feature thick, green, succulent-like leaves arranged in a rosette pattern. Several upright stems bear clusters of small flowers, some of which are bright yellow and others are reddish-orange. The plants are surrounded by other vegetation, including thin grasses and small purple flowers. The overall scene is a close-up of the Roseroot plants in their natural habitat.

**Roseroot looking good!**



**Lots of carnivorous plants,  
e.g. these sundews!**



**Our trip to Clare Island, yielded more than 1000 records added to the BSBI database!**

- 
- A photograph of a pond with lily pads and a forested background. The pond is filled with green lily pads, some of which are yellowed. The water is dark and reflects the sky. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees and a small wooden structure on the right side. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.
- After three days on Clare Island, the focus shifted to the mainland
  - Recording groups of 4-5 people again radiated to east and north Mayo from their base in Castlebar

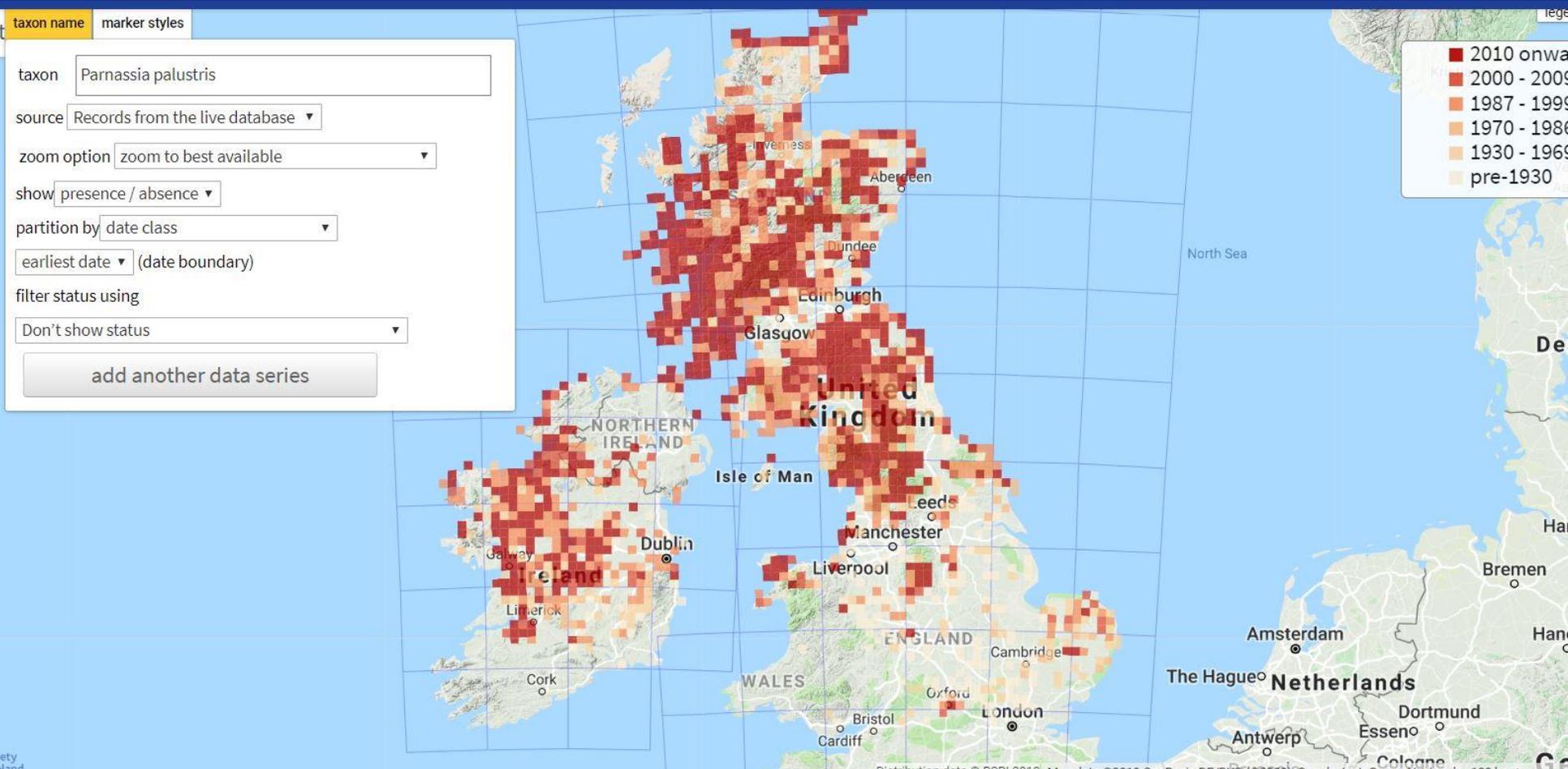


**Is it the picture that is blurry, or did we have too much wine ...**



**Irish botanists were  
amused by botanists  
visiting from southern  
England getting all excited  
by this plant!**

# BSBI distribution map shows lots of *Parnassia palustris* in the north-west

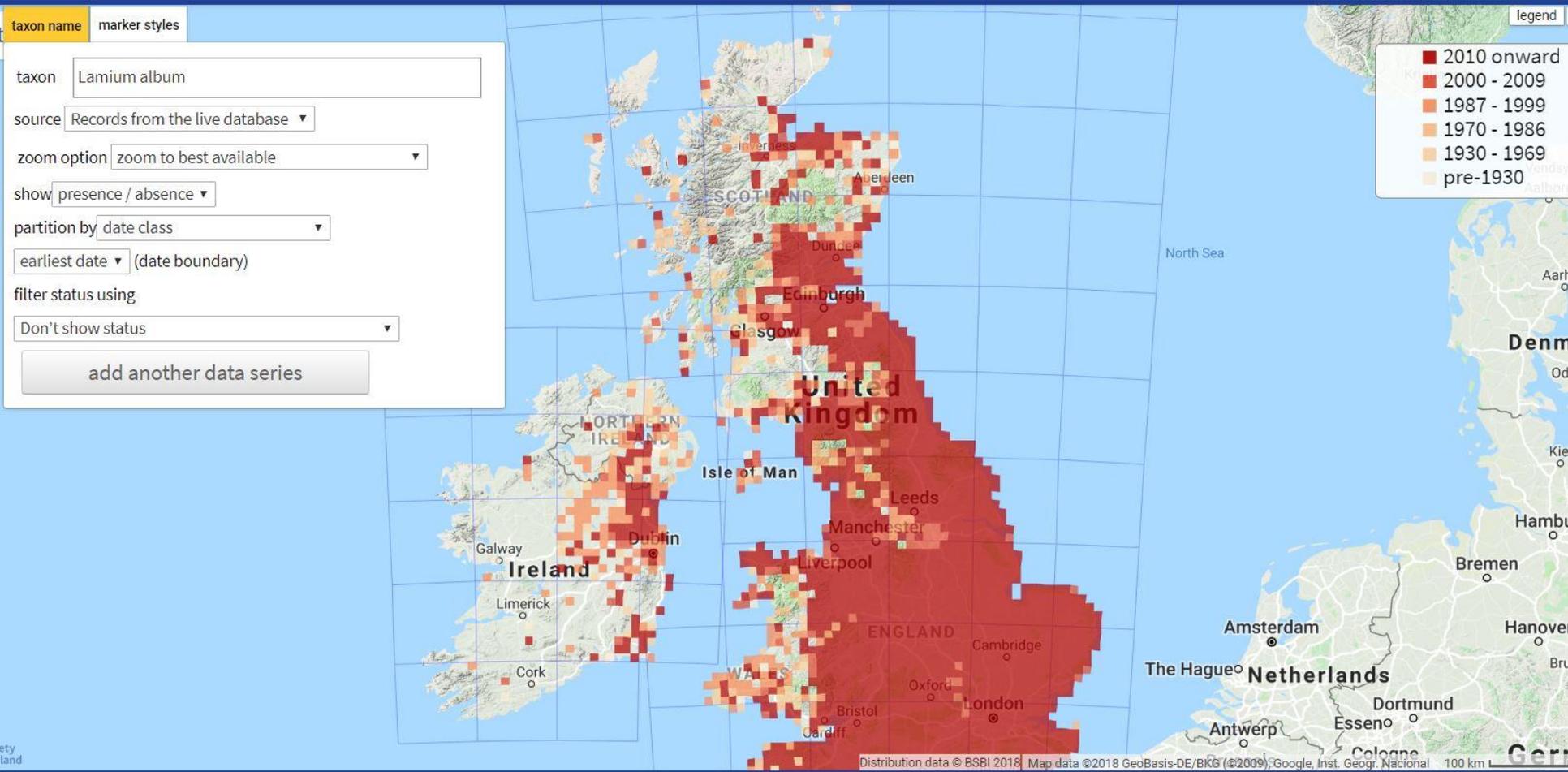


But not much in the south-east!



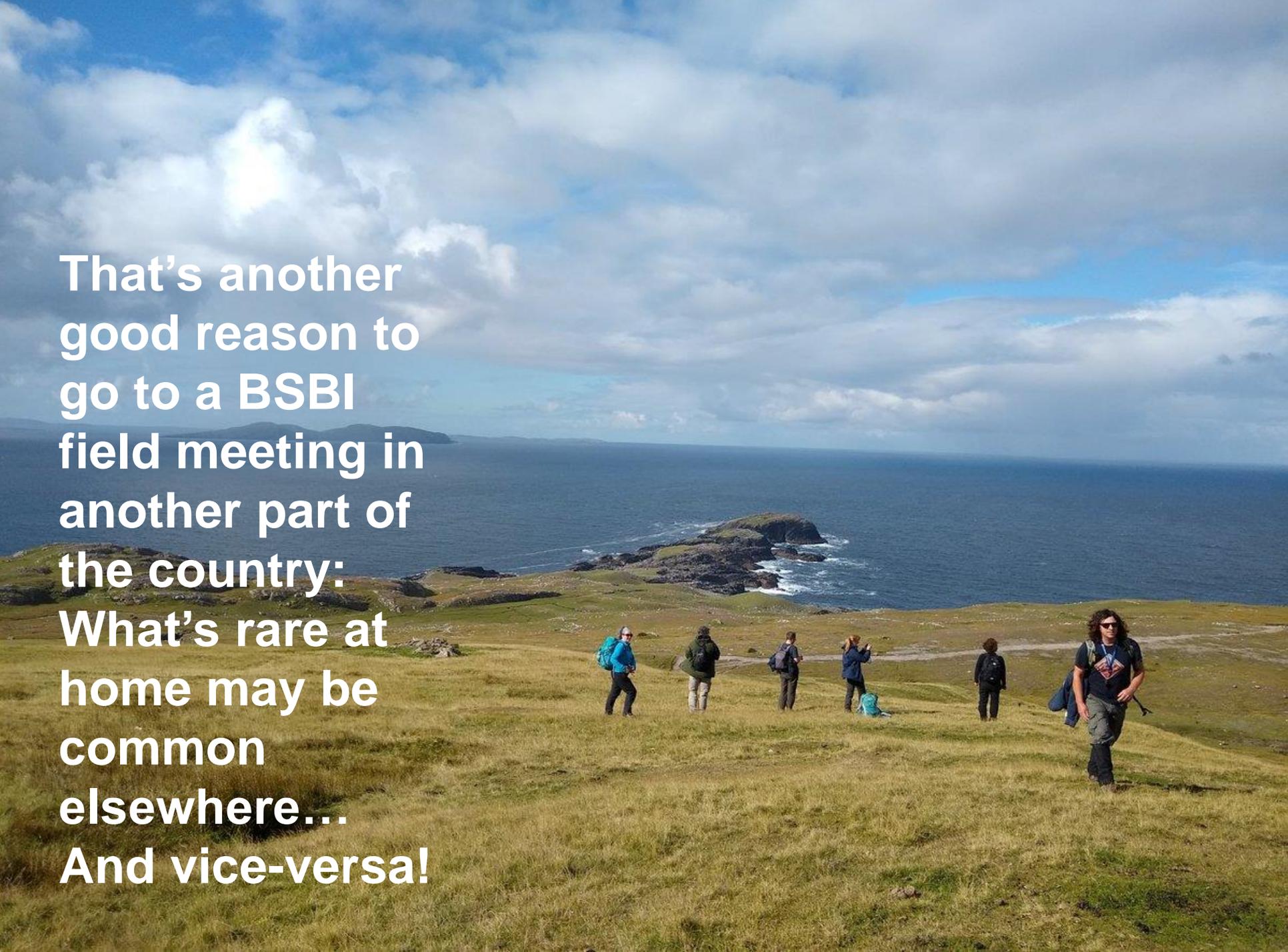
**Irish botanists would have been delighted if we had found this plant for them!**

# Lots of White dead-nettle in England...



**Very little of it in north-west Ireland!**

**That's another  
good reason to  
go to a BSBI  
field meeting in  
another part of  
the country:  
What's rare at  
home may be  
common  
elsewhere...  
And vice-versa!**



# Final day of #BSBIMayo2018 was a Sunday so...



**BSBI** @BSBIbotany · Aug 12

Tonight I'm taking part in #wildflowerhour from lovely County Mayo where it's the last day of #BSBIMayo2018 recording event. Pix show 2 ace #bogplants which the fab Robert & Hannah Northridge showed me today, *Parnassia palustris* & (bottom right of pic) *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*.



3



14



101





- Lots of images and comments shared on Facebook and on Twitter using the hashtag **#BSBIMayo2018**
- Summaries posted most days (connection permitting!) on the BSBI News & Views blog: <http://bsbipublicity.blogspot.com>

## BSBI Mayo Recording Event 2018: Day 4

On the final day of this year's [BSBI Mayo Recording Event](#) I was fortunate to be in Robert Northridge's team. Robert is a bit of a legend - a superb botanist, Chair of BSBI's [Committee for Ireland](#), County Recorder for Fermanagh and Co Cavan; Robert also [picked up an MBE last year](#) for his years of voluntary work, including bringing communities together in the aftermath of the Eniskillen tragedy.

The [previous day](#), Robert's team had re-found the rare and beautiful Irish lady's-tresses *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* in the same site where they had discovered it several decades earlier, and they were telling us all about it over dinner.

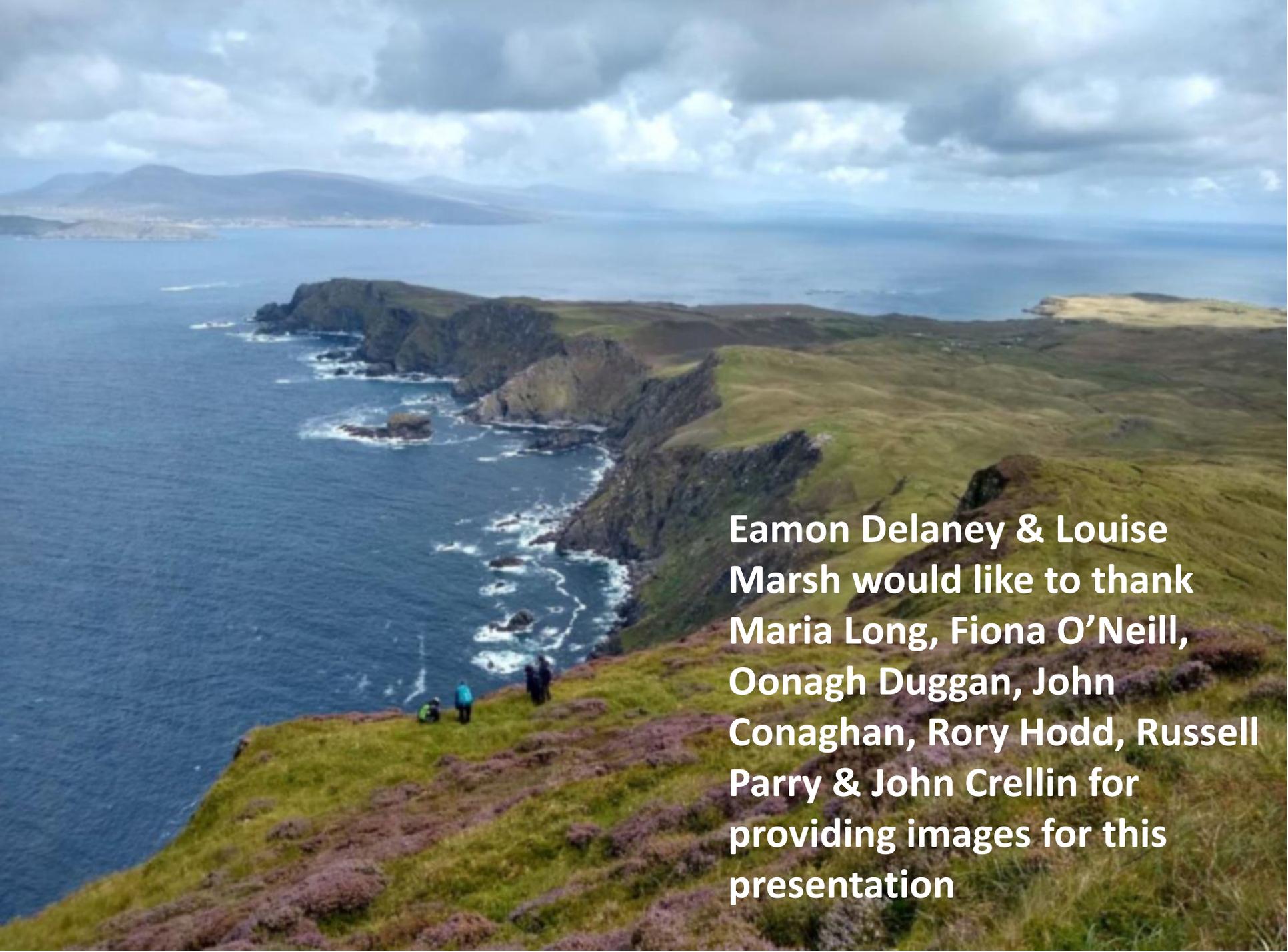
They soon realised by our 'oohs and 'aahs' that this was a plant which I and Russell Parry, one of the [County Recorders](#) from [VC55](#) who had travelled over with me, had never seen. But the

next morning Robert and his wife Hannah picked me and Russell up ready for our day's



Eoin admiring the Irish lady's-tresses

Image: L. Marsh



**Eamon Delaney & Louise Marsh would like to thank Maria Long, Fiona O'Neill, Oonagh Duggan, John Conaghan, Rory Hodd, Russell Parry & John Crellin for providing images for this presentation**

A vibrant landscape featuring a large, multi-colored rainbow arching across a blue sky filled with white and grey clouds. Below the sky, rolling green hills are dotted with several white houses and a few utility poles. The foreground is dominated by a field of purple flowers, likely lavender, in full bloom. The overall scene is bright and scenic, suggesting a rural or coastal setting.

**Thank you for listening!**