

# PROGRAMME



## ATU MAYO CAMPUS

27-29 **MAY** 2026



# Tuesday 26 May 2026



15:00 to 17:30 Registration at ATU Mayo Reception area

# Wednesday 27 May 2026

08:00 to 09:15 Registration & Coffee at ATU Mayo Reception area

Chairperson: Dr Deirdre Garvey  
Head of Department of Environmental Humanities & Social Sciences & Head of Green Campus ATU Mayo

09:30 – 10:10 **Introduction and Welcome:** ATU President Dr Orla Flynn and Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council Councillor Sean Carey  
**Opening address: Minister Christopher O’Sullivan**  
Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity

10:10 – 10:40 **Guest Speaker: Eoin Warner**, Wildlife Documentary Presenter in both Irish and English languages and has presented some of Ireland’s foremost nature documentaries

10:40 – 11:00 **A decade of surveying Swifts with the OPW and Councils**  
Presented by Tara Adcock, BirdWatch Ireland

11:00 – 11:20 **The History of the Common Swift Research Project at ATU Mayo**  
Presented by Jarek Majkusiak, Swift Conservation Mayo, Ireland

11:20 – 11:30 Q & A

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break – St Mary’s Hall

12:00 – 12:20 **Insights from tracking a 19-month non-stop flight of a sub-adult Common Swift**  
Presented by Lyndon Kearsley, BlueGreen Labs BV, Belgium

12:20 – 12:50 **Beijing Swift Conservation: A Municipal-Government-Led Model Integrating Research, International Cooperation and Public Participation**

Presented by Xiaochuan Xhang, Beijing Academy of Forestry & Landscape Architecture, China  
Q & A

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch – Campus Cafeteria

Chairperson: Dr Tanya Hoare, Sedbergh Community Swifts, UK

14:30 – 14:50 **Vaux’s Happening – Mexico takes us over 30 Million!**  
Presented by Diane Yorgason-Quinn, Vauxhappening.org, USA

14:50 – 15:10 **Where do our recruits come from?**  
Presented by Chris Huxley, Swift Conservation Ireland

15:10 – 15:30 **Caring for Swifts - Challenges & Opportunities**  
Presented by Louise Bentley, Bolton & Bury Swifts, UK

15:30 – 15:40 Q & A

15:40 – 16:10 Coffee break – St Mary’s Hall

16:10 – 16:30 **Mapping the Swifts**  
Presented by Thomas Starkmann, Austria

16:30 – 16:50 **Conservation of Swifts in Buildings: Updated Guide for Nesting Site Protection**  
Presented by Jacques Laesser, Swiss Ornithological Institute

16:50 – 17:10 **Erich Kaiser 1937 - 2025 - A Life for Swifts**  
Presented by Edward Mayer, Swift Conservation & Evert Pellenkoft, Swifts Amsterdam

17:10 – 17:20 Q&A

17:20 – 17:30 Screening of Video Commissioned by the RSPB  
**“Meet the Communities Who Have Come Together to Save our Swift**



## Thursday 28 May 2026

- Chairperson:** Dr Deirdre Garvey  
Head of Department of Environmental Humanities & Social Sciences & Head of Green Campus ATU Mayo
- 09:00 – 09:30 **Guest Speaker: Dr Brendan Dunford**, Founder of BurrenBeo, Farming for Nature, Re-Farm
- 09:30 – 09:50 **Population Recovery of the Common Swift in Killorglin, Co. Kerry: Findings from the 2025 Survey**  
Presented by James Daly and Jarek Majkusiak, Swift Conservation Ireland
- 09:50 – 10:10 **Passive Acoustic Monitoring for Swifts - using sound to investigate chick feeding rates**  
Presented by Ben Stammers, North Wales Wildlife Trust and Hannah Hereward, BTO Cymru
- 10:10 – 10:30 **Swift conservation in Cadiz, Andalucia, Spain**  
Presented by Sophie Twiss, Natural History Society of Cadiz/ Sociedad Gaditana de Historia Natural (SGHN)
- 10:30 – 10:40 Q & A
- 10:40 – 11:30 **Coffee break – St Mary’s Hall**
- 11:30 – 11:50 **Using Artificial Intelligence to Identify Feeding Events in Swift Nest-Box Videos**  
Presented by Odin Glynn, Ballinrobe Community School, Co. Mayo, Ireland
- 11:50 – 12:10 **Temperature under tiled roofs revisited**  
Presented by Rick Wortelboer, Arcadis, The Netherlands
- 12:10 – 12:30 **“Figli dell’Aria - The Swifts of Campiglia Marittima”: reaching out to people through creativity**  
Presented by Eugenia Parisi, Rondoni Campigliesi/Swifts of Campiglia odv., Italy
- 12:30 – 12:40 Q & A
- 12:40 – 14:10 **Lunch – Campus Cafeteria**
- Chairperson:** Dr Cilian Roden, ATU Associate and prominent Irish Ecologist
- 14:10 – 14:40 **Guest Speaker: Dr James O’Neill “Scandal in the Colony – The dramatic love lives of Common Swifts”**
- 14:40 – 15:00 **Census and monitoring of the Swift population in the city of Amsterdam**  
Presented by Ger de Jong, The Netherlands
- 15:00 – 15:20 **Derbyshire Dales: development of a Swift conservation model**  
Presented by Claire Mead, Derbyshire Swift Conservation, UK
- 15:20 – 15:30 Q & A
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break – St Mary’s Hall**
- 16:00 – 16:20 **Our Swifts - 22 years in the Life of a Colony**  
Presented by Tim Collins, UK
- 16:20 – 16:40 **Citizen Science Initiative to Preserve Common Swifts during Heat Wave Events in Toledo, Spain**  
Presented by Itziar R. Urbieto, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo, Spain
- 16:40 – 16:50 **San Rafael Brickyard – Update on the Vaux’s Swift Migration Roost**  
Presented by Michael Helm, Brickyard Observation Team; Golden Gate Bird Alliance, USA
- 16:50 – 17:00 Q & A
- 17:00 – 17:30 Screening of Video *‘The Other Taylor Swift’* with recorded introduction by Justin Anderson, UK



## Friday 29 May 2026

**Chairperson:** Dr Deirdre Garvey  
Head of Department of Environmental Humanities & Social Sciences & Head of Green Campus ATU Mayo  
AND  
Louise Bentley, Bolton & Bury Swifts, UK

09:00 – 09:30 **Guest Speaker: Georgia Macmillan, International Mayo Dark Sky Park**  
“Swift Night Shift: Changing mindsets on light at night for nature”

09:30 – 09:50 **Listening to Swifts: Autonomous Acoustic Monitoring of Vaux’s Swift Migration Roost**  
Presented by Michael Helm, Brickyard Observer Team; Golden Gate Bird Alliance

09:50 – 10:10 **Rescue Data Analysis of the Common Swift (2022–2025): Implications for Conservation and Management in North-Eastern Italy**  
Presented by Andrea Riggi, Liberi di Volare ODV, Trieste, Italy

10:10 – 10:30 **The Inside Out of the Aerial Swift, a Swift Look for Insiders**  
Presented by Evert Pellenkoft, Swifts Amsterdam, The Netherlands

10:30 – 10:40 Q & A

10:40 – 11:10 **Coffee break – St Mary’s Hall**

11:10 – 11:30 **Temperature in Swift nests: review of Dutch data**  
Presented by Rick Wortelboer, The Netherlands

11:30 – 11:50 **Demographic Changes in Three Common Swift Colonies in the Lombardy Region, Italy**  
Presented by Emanuele Zanchin, Gruppo Insubrico di Ornitologia, Italy

11:50 – 12:10 **How many Swifts are there in the UK?**  
Presented by Tim Collins, Action for Swifts, UK

12:10 – 12:20 Q & A

12:20 – 13:40 **Lunch – Campus Cafeteria**

**Chairperson:** Dr Cilian Roden, ATU Associate and prominent Irish Ecologist

13:40 - 14:00 **In Conversation With Gordon D’Arcy, artist and naturalist**

14:00 – 14:20 **The Challenges of Establishing New Swift Colonies in Rural Areas**  
Presented by John Parrott, Loch Ness Swift Project, Boleskine Biodiversity Group, Highlands of Scotland

14:20 – 14:40 **An Ecocritical Approach to Swifts In Irish and Turkish Literature and Visual Productions**  
Presented by Dr Onur Kaya, Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University

14:40 – 14:50 Q & A

14:50 – 15:20 **Coffee break – St Mary’s Hall**

15:20 – 15:40 **My Home is my Castle - Common Swifts in Northwestern Switzerland**  
Presented by Susanna Meyer, Switzerland

15:40 - 16:00 **The Contribution of Dr Jane Goodall to Swift Conservation Worldwide**  
Presented by Martine Wauters, Swifts Without Frontiers, Natagora & Natuurpunt, Belgium

16:00 – 16:10 Q & A

16:10 – 16:30 2028 International Swift Conference – Presentation of Proposals

16:30 – 17:00 **Screening of Video Documentary “Born to Fly” by Stefano Salvatori, Italy**

17:10 – 17:20 Summary and Closing Remarks

17:20 – 20:30 Closing event: Buffet & Music in St Mary’s Hall

- Wild Chorus choir singing arrangement of Ted Hughes' poem 'Swifts'
- A performance of three songs by the Carra Singers

Traditional Irish Music by Stephen Doherty, Diarmuid Moynihan and Friends.

*A lively exhibition of Traditional Irish Music presented by multiple award winning Irish musicians showcasing instruments including the fiddle, flute, whistle, accordion and our native instruments the Irish Harp, Uilleann Pipes and Bodhran*

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