

**Wildlife**



Westmeath County Council's environmental awareness officer, Ms Bernadette Ginnell, has been encouraging Irish residents to start their own wildlife area gardens or more extensive areas of land.

Westmeath County Council and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, under the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund recently sponsored a workshop provided by Irish Wildlife Trust to create more awareness of the biodiversity in Westmeath. The Trust has a very interesting programme called "Make it Wild" to guide people in their efforts to create areas that welcome and nurture wildlife and it is working with Tidy Town groups to promote a competition.



Interested parties should request an IWT starter pack and will make a biodiversity assessment on the selected area, from a derelict site to a garden to a business premises. When the area has been finished, e.g. planted and water sources are provided, it will be certified by the IWT.