

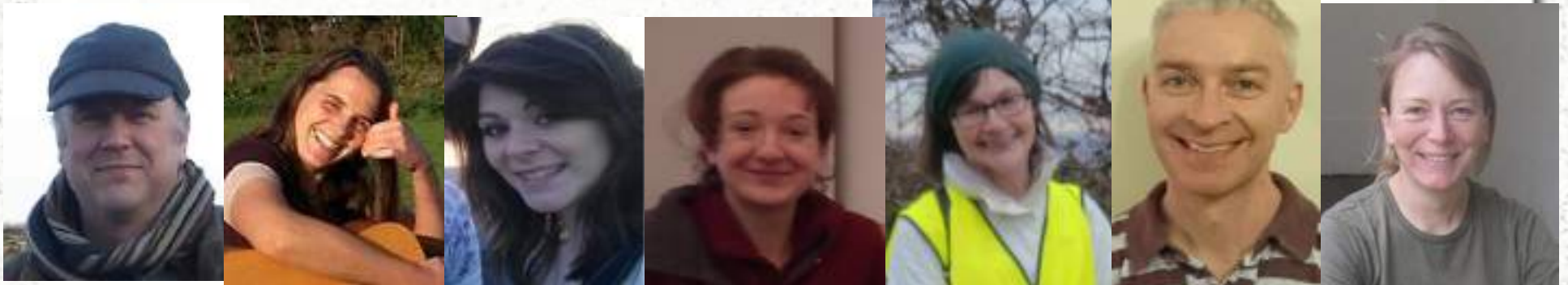
# *True Harvest Seeds*

Native Irish wild flora seed conservation charity.



## *Staff and volunteers*

- Local charity, registered NIC100201.
- Based in Kilclief, Downpatrick, Co Down.
- Mark Bryson, Julia Cross and Becky Knight, Katie Laurence, Helen Elliott, Geoff Newell and Debbie Gillies.



## *Our concerns*

- More loss of habitat in the last 50 years than ever before.
- The majority of Ireland's habitats listed under the Habitats Directive are reported to be of poor or bad conservation status. ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie))
- Brexit and loss of EU initiatives in the north.
- Genetically modified wild flower patents.
- Few restrictions on import of native species that have non-Irish origin.
- Establishment of foreign diseases.

## *Seed banking*

Preserves our natural capital and offers long term security for orthodox species.

- Our seeds are available for restoration projects.
- We collect valuable in-situ data based on land owner knowledge.
- Target archaeophyte populations.
- Community involvement at all levels.
- Training given: plant identification, seed collections and conservation, growing plants for seed, at head office and in the field.

## *Key outcomes*

- Seed collections: Establishment of accessible, genetically representative ex-situ collections of Ireland's species through seed banking.
- Develop a network of partners and volunteers to work with and share our knowledge, experience and research.
- Raise awareness: Highlighting the need to use seeds of local origin in restoration projects.
- Testing: Germination and genetic.
- Going forward: Future generations have access Irish flora species of *native* origin.



# *Seed targets*

Ireland has over 1000 species, of which we collect the orthodox ones, from 32 counties and more from special habitats, around 40,000 collections.



## *National Seed Collections*

- To date we have banked over 150 collections over 2015, 16 and 17. in Kilclief, Co Down.
- 108 of the collections are duplicated in Kew's Millennium Seed Bank as backup.
- We follow specific scientific protocols.
- Must have 85% viability for banking.
- We dry the seeds down to 15% eRH so they'll remain viable for, decades at -20C.
- 35 collections of tree and flora scheduled for 2018.



# *Tree seed collections*

The 4 parts to each tree seed collection are: Seeds, herbarium specimen, data sheet and photographs.



# *Flora seed collections*

5 parts to each flora collection: As for tree seeds but including DNA sample.

A detailed data collection form for flora seed collections, including fields for species name, date, location, and collector information.

# *Each collection held in two parts*

Sharing seeds for restoration projects inc. testing - a *working collection*. Preserving a smaller *base collection*, stored in long term security.

## Seed Hub



# *Seed processing at Kilclief lab*

Seed processing lab.



# *From flower to freezer*



## Processing



# *Head office at Kilclief*

## *– visitors welcome*

In the grounds we grow out plants for seed.

At the end of the property we are plantin native trees, our prize tree *Sorbus rupicola*.

Polytunnel for growing out young plants.

Laboratory for processing the seeds.



# *Training and education*



## *Current projects*

- RBG Kew's UK Flora seed collection programme.
- RBG Kew's UK Native Tree Seed Project.
- Heritage Lottery project "Saving the future of our Wildflowers".
- Ballyhornan Development Association and Kilclief Community Association coastal restoration project.
- The Challenge Fund "The Community Seed Hub".



## *Working partnerships, THS offers:*



- Another preservation option for the in-situ plants of organisations and individuals.
- Learn how to preserve your own seeds.
- Upskill your staff and volunteers.

## *Want to help? Join us on:*



- Collecting expeditions.
- Creating the Kilclief botanic garden to grow out seed for seed.
- Processing the seed in our lab.
- Testing and banking the seeds.
- Help us bank Ireland's seeds, we'll show you how.

## *Contact details*

- True Harvest Seeds, *36 Ardglass Road, Kilclief, Downpatrick, Co Down, BT30 7NS.*
  - [debbie@trueharvestseeds.co.uk](mailto:debbie@trueharvestseeds.co.uk)
  - geoff@trueharvestseeds.co.uk
  - www.trueharvestseeds.co.uk
    - Tel. 0(+44) 28 4488 1736
  - Facebook: True Harvest Seeds
    - Twitter @Trueharvestseed

*Thank you for listening*