The Burren is a wonderful place, for all sorts of reasons. It is a home place and a resource of inestimable value for the communities who dwell here, a unique national treasure for the people of Ireland, and a landscape of international importance to all who value mankind’s rich heritage.

But the Burren is also a place that needs to be respected and cared for. Sustaining the Burren and realising its potential will require targeted and sensitive management. The Burrenbeo Trust is a registered charity (CHY 16834) dedicated to working towards a sustainable future for the Burren and its people, through the pursuit of the following key objectives:

- to create a membership structure in order to support the conservation of the Burren and its communities and to give a voice to Burren supporters all over the world
- to create a greater appreciation of the Burren as a living landscape of international importance;
- to engage farming families and local communities in the decision-making processes affecting the area;
- to promote dialogue between interested parties at local, regional and national levels;
- to raise the consciousness of local children, their parents and families on the very special nature of the Burren through outreach work in local schools and
- to promote its holistic and self-sustaining conservation and development through research on best practice internationally and to suggest models of sustainable ecological and economic development.

The Burrenbeo Trust has evolved from the work of Burrenbeo Teo as an information and education resource for the Burren. Since its inception in early 2002, the work of Burrenbeo Teo has included the development of the portal website for the Burren www.burrenbeo.com the award winning CD ROM ‘Images of the fertile rock’, multilingual factsheets for the Burren, the educational outreach programme ‘Eco-Beo’, a local eco-tourism business network and a free heritage information centre in Kinvara, as well as a number of other initiatives.

Burrenbeo Trust aims to build on these foundations to create something really significant and lasting for the future of the Burren. The Trust will strive to become an inclusive but independent voice for the Burren focusing particularly on the themes of education, information provision, research and advocacy.

But to do this we will need help, your help! Please, join us in the work of the Burrenbeo Trust. Become a member, spread the word, send us your ideas and opinions, join us on our walks and at our talks, get involved, make it your Trust! For more info or to send us your ideas or suggestions, please e-mail info@burrenbeo.com, call 091-638096
Free 1-day conference on Burren Archaeology
Saturday the 13th of December will see a day of talks relating to the archaeology of the Burren, held at the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan. These talks are the result of the Burren Landscape and Settlement Project funded by INSTAR (Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research). This project, based in NUI Galway, has brought together the work of several archaeologists currently working in the Burren.

Topics to be discussed will include prehistoric remains at Turlough Hill, Roughan Hill, Coolnaturillagh, Carron, and Cappanawalla, and Medieval evidence from Craherconnell, Cahermacnaghten and Lislarheen. Speakers will include Ronan Hennessey (project IT specialist), Dr. Stefan Bergh (NUI Galway), Frank Coyne (AEGIS Archaeology Ltd.), Dr. Carleton Jones (NUI Galway), Olive Carey (NUI Galway), Clare Hennigar (NUI Galway), Christine Grant (National Monuments Service), Dr. Michelle Comber (NUI Galway), Graham Hull (TVAS Ireland Ltd.), Dr. Elizabeth FitzPatrick (NUI Galway), Richard Clutterbuck (independent archaeologist), and Eve Campbell (NUI Galway).

This conference marks the end of the first phase of the Burren Landscape and Settlement INSTAR project. Work so far has focused on establishing a research framework for Burren archaeology. This has involved addressing topics such as the relationship between secular and ritual activity, boundaries and land use, movement throughout the Burren, social organisation, the influence of early landscapes on later developments, and the Burren in a wider archaeological context.

The talks will start at 9am and admission is free. All are welcome. For more details on the Burren Landscape and Settlement INSTAR project, please see http://www.nuigalway.ie/faculties_departments/archaeology/burren_project.html Supported by the Heritage Council under the Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) Programme 2008.

Christmas carols at the Cliffs of Moher
Christmas carols, set dancing, traditional music sessions & gospel choirs all will perform both indoors and outdoors (weather & performance type permitting) at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience throughout December in the lead up to Christmas. Performing groups from local schools & community groups will collect from visitors to the venue for a selection of locally supported charities. The centre will also donate a percentage of the admissions revenue taken during the performance. For more info see www.clifsofmoher.ie

Burren Beef and Lamb – get yours now!
The Burren Beef and Lamb producers Group are currently taking orders for quality, local, conservation-grade beef and lamb from the Burren. Tel 065-7089000, 087-9963477 or e-mail burrenproducers@gmail.com Perfect for Christmas.
Upcoming Events

**Kinvara** Thursday Dec 4th, 7pm Opening of New Exhibition at Café Beo, all are welcome. Artist and photographer Nutan is opening a new exhibition of his photographs and paintings on Thursday Dec 4th next at Café Beo in Kinvara. Originally from Belgium but a long term resident of Kinvara, Nutan has published several acclaimed books of his photography and is also an accomplished artist. This exhibition will run until Christmas this year.

Café Beo and the Burrenbeo Resource Centre will be open from 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Saturday and 11.30pm – 4pm Sundays until Christmas.

**Kinvara** Saturday 6th Dec. Christmas Benefit for ME and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Community Centre Kinvara at 8.00. Hosted by Finola O'Siuchru, guests include Brendan Larrissey, Jim McKee, Jack Harrison, Fia Rua and many more.

**Ennis** Saturday, December 6th, 2008. Clare Traditional Boats and Currachs Conference ‘Boats, Place, People’ at Cois na hAbhana, Gort Rd., Ennis. For more info contact Tomas MacConmara at tmacconmara@CLARECOCO.IE

**Ballyvaughan** Sat 6th - Thurs 11th December. Mind the Mountain’. Undergraduate Art Exhibition at Burren College of Art. 10.00am - 5.00pm daily. Featuring samples of work completed throughout this past semester. Included among the students’ work are photography, painting and sculpture. Much of the work will be for sale. library@burrencollege.ie

**Kinvara** Sat - Sun 6th - 7th December, 10.00 to 6.00. Christmas Craft Fair at Johnston’s Hall Kinvara. Christmas Fare, Photography, Paintings, Pottery, Italian food, Jewellery, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, and many, many more nice things.

**Ballyvaughan** Christmas Market Saturday & Sunday 6th & 7th, 13th & 14th, 20th & 21st December 2008. Over 40 stalls in the market provide German and Irish food, arts, and crafts

**New Quay** to Dec 31st The Burren Way - Exhibition of Paintings by Joe Jordan & Doreen Drennan @ The Russell Gallery.


**Doolin** Sat- Sun Dec 13th - 14th from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Christmas Market at the Russell Community Centre. Fresh baked foods, Christmas puddings and cakes, wreaths and flowers, greenery, and natural and handcrafted Christmas decorations!

**Fanore**, Sunday, January 4th, 2009 Seventh Annual Sponsored Burren Walk. The walk is in support of the Alzheimer’s Society and begins from O’Donoghue’s pub. Please call 065-6868621 for more info.

**With Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas Season 2008 from Burrenbeo.**

Goodbye and Thanks

Over the past two years BeoNews has been issued monthly to several thousand Burren enthusiasts all over the world. This is the final edition of the Newsletter to be compiled by Burrenbeo. But rest assured, this monthly e-newsletter will continue to be distributed by the Burrenbeo Trust. Thank to for your kind words and support over the past number of years.