



Burrenbeo Newsletter May 2008



Ballyvaughan market reopens for another season

Ballyvaughan Farmers Market makes a welcome return to the Burren on Sat. May 3rd at 10am. Located at St John's Hall Car Park in the heart of Ballyvaughan, this year's market is bigger and better than ever with baked goods, free range eggs, home grown seasonal vegetables, fruit, home produced preserves, oils, sauces, garden plants, flowers and, new this year, locally produced and butchered Burren lamb and beef from the Burren Beef and Lamb Producers Group. Contact Tracey at 065 7076963 or 087 2911092 or email: ballyvaughanfarmersmarket@eircom.net Get there early!

And the Cuckoo is back as well!

As the welcome sound of the cuckoo reverberates across the Burren in celebration of the arrival of another summer season, Kinvara hosts its 15th annual Cuckoo festival. Fleadh na gCuach takes place in Kinvara from May 2nd to May 5th. This hugely enjoyable traditional music festival will feature great music sessions throughout the weekend in the local pubs, while the Cuckoo fun run and other family events offer a healthier bank holiday option.

The Burren – a paradise destination!

A new publication released on May 1st titled LIFE Dream Destinations - 100 of the World's Best Vacations includes the Burren as one of the top sightseeing attractions in the world. Described as a 'book of distinctions—experiences, places and imagery' the Dream Destinations book is organized by specific types of vacations for easy navigation. Under its 'Sightseers Dream Destinations' the Burren is listed along with other exotic destinations such as the Bosphorus Strait and Le Marche in Italy. This book is available from www.life.com/dreams \$29.95

Burren in the papers – recent press coverage

Wild goats removed from The Burren

The removal of an estimated 50 wild goats from the Burren National Park in April received widespread publicity in local, National and International media. The latest episode in what is a long running saga resulted in Colin Johnson, Chairman of the Old Irish Goats Society, claiming that he was physically removed from a farm when he tried to protest at the removal of a lorry load of goats from the area. Mr. Johnston said that up to 5,000 goats have been removed from The Burren and surrounding national park in the last 10 years. Gardaí in Co Clare are investigating the claims.

Six people rescued from caves in North Clare (see picture below – Burren goats, April 2008).

A group of cavers ran into difficulty in the Burren in late April after entering a cave underneath Slieve Elva near Cooleabeg Having failed to return from the outing the alarm was raised and three of the party were rescued and brought to Ennis General Hospital suffering from hypothermia (source www.clareherald.ie).

Dramatic win for Corofin

Corofin Drama Society won first prize at the All Ireland Drama awards in Strabane Co. Tyrone for their production of Martin McDonagh's Beauty Queen of Linnane. The play was produced by local man John Clancy

Slow food comes to the Burren



The Burren Slow Food festival will take place from Friday May 23rd to Sunday May 25th in Lisdoonvarna. A wonderful array of events has been organized including Slow Food Dinners, Farmer's Market & Barbecue, Food Talks and a Gala dinner which will take place at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre. Featured local producers will include Inagh Goats Cheese, Cratloe Hills Sheep Cheese, Wilde's Irish Chocolate from East Clare, Smoked Fish from the Burren Smokehouse, Burren Beef & Lamb and local honey and seaweeds. Cookery Demonstrations will be held by Clodagh McKenna (TV personality, farmers' markets, author) and local gourmet chefs while John McKenna (Bridgestone Guide founder) will give a presentation/talk. To work it all off, guided walks in the Burren by local guides Shane Connolly & Mary Howard have been organized. For more information: Contact: Birgitta Hedin-Curtin at 087-822 4173 or email slowfoodclare@hotmail.com

Burren Events Calendar May 2008

- May 1st to May 15th Kilnaboy** X-PO Exhibition: *Eileen Healy Farming - A Visual Stuttering*. This work uses both video and photography to document farming through time. X-PO, Kilnaboy Cross Co Clare 065 6827940 xpo.Kilnaboy@gmail.com
- Tues. May 6th Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm. Lecture: *The Burren - A Rocky Place* by George Sevastopulo.
- Tues. May 6th Ennis** – Glor Theatre at 8pm. *Submarine Man - The Little Known Life of John P. Holland*. A hilarious and yet at times incredibly moving account of one of Ireland's greatest unsung heroes: €18/16 conc. 065 6843103 boxoffice@glor.ie
- Wed. May 7th Keelhill*** (Slieve Carron) National Nature Reserve. *A wildflower and Lichen walk* led by Sharon Parr and Stephen Ward. 3 hour walk. Meeting point: SPAR Ballyvaughan at 2pm. Bring boots and waterproofs.
- Thurs May 8th Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm. Lecture: *Through the Burren with Raymond Piper and Richard Hayward* by Paul Clements. Admission free.
- Sun. May 11th Ballyvaughan*** *Dawn Chorus walk* with leader Gordon D'Arcy. Meet at 5.15am at Spar Village Store – Champagne Breakfast afterwards at Hyland's Burren Hotel 7.30am.
- Tues. May 13th Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm. *Orchids of the Burren* by Susan Sex. Free admission.
- Wed. May 14th Kilnaboy*** *A wildflowers walk in the Burren National Park* led by Stephen Ward. 3 hour walk. Meeting point: SPAR Ballyvaughan at 2pm. Bring boots and waterproofs.
- Wed. May 14th Crusheen** at 10pm *Singers Club @ The Highway Bar*, Crusheen Tel: 086 8599957 fhayes23@gmail.com The singers club runs on the second Wednesday of every month all year round. All singers and listeners are welcome.
- Thurs. May 15th Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm. *An exploration of the Bat population of Co. Clare* by David Lyons. Followed by bat walk. Admission free, all welcome.
- Tues. May 20th Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm *In touch with mystery, the Holy Wells of the Burren* by Tony Kirby. Admission free, all welcome.
- Wed. May 21st Keelhill*** (Slieve Carron) National Nature Reserve *A wildflower and Lichen walk* led by Sharon Parr and Stephen Ward. 3 hour walk. Meeting point: SPAR Ballyvaughan at 2pm. Bring boots and waterproofs.
- Thurs. May 22nd Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm. Lecture - *The Burren- Flowers of summer* by Mary Angela Keane. Admission free, all welcome.
- Tues. May 27th Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm. Lecture: *A historical journey through the Burren* by Bill Mc Inerney. Admission free, all welcome.
- Wed. May 28th Kilnaboy*** *A wildflowers walk in the Burren National Park* led by Stephen Ward. 3 hour walk. Meeting point: SPAR Ballyvaughan at 2pm. Bring boots and waterproofs.
- Thurs. May 29th Ballyvaughan*** Burren College of Art at 8.30pm. Lecture: *The living Burren* by Brendan Dunford. Admission free, all welcome.
- Sat. May 24th Ballyvaughan*** *Burren Marathon Walk*. Meet at the Burren Coast Hotel at 9.00am. Music afterwards at the Burren Coast Hotel: Jazz with Freddie and the Dreamers 5pm -7pm

Some flowers to look out for in the Burren right now (download colourful checksheet from www.burrenbeo.com)

Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), early purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Spring gentian (*Gentiana verna*), Dog violet (*Viola rivinianna*), blue moor grass (*Sesleria caerulea*), Bitter Vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*), Water avens (*Geum rivale*), Mouse ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*), Quaking grass or famine grass/féar gorta (*Briza media*) and below (l-r): **Mountain avens** (*Dryas octopetala*), **Bloody cranesbill** (*Geranium sanguineum*) and **Cat's paw** (*Antennaria dioica*).



Burrenbeo News

Webstats Update

In April 2008 Burrenbeo received an average of 874 unique visitors per day (13,390 hits) amounting to a monthly total of 26,220 visitors (401,725 hits) over the month. This represents a 27% year-on-year increase and confirms the status of www.burrenbeo.com as the portal site for all things Burren. In terms of nationalities using the site, the main users are from Ireland, the UK and the USA, followed by Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Burrenbeo provides these visitors with the information they need to ensure an informed, respectful and enjoyable visit to the Burren. This free information provision service has been provided by Burrenbeo for over 5 years over which time it has hosted over 1m visits as well as responding to countless visitor queries on info@burrenbeo.com

Limestone Exhibition at Burrenbeo Resource Centre, Kinvara

An exhibition entitled "Our Limestone Landscapes" is currently on view at the Burrenbeo Resource Centre in Kinvara. The exhibition – composed of 18 illustrated panels - illustrates the wonderful geological features of limestone landscapes and how they were formed. The purpose of the exhibition is to display our limestone landscapes as a positive and necessary resource, to illustrate the increasing pressures on limestone pavement, to identify where further protection is required and create awareness amongst the public as to how they can play their part in conserving this unique – but seriously threatened - resource. The exhibition 'Our Limestone Landscapes' is a cross-border initiative developed by the Environment and Heritage Service of Northern Ireland, the Irish Wildlife Trust and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Admission free: also lots of free ENFO posters, free Digital Info Hub, and the best coffee, cakes and wholesome soup and sandwiches around. Open Wed - Sun, 11am-4pm. Main Street, Kinvara. 091-638096 or info@burrenbeo.com

Business Network

The Burren Business Network comprises of over 50 Burren businesses that support the work of Burrenbeo – information and education provision – in return for listings on the Burrenbeo website and a package of other benefits. All subscriptions to the network are invested directly in the non-profit work of Burrenbeo – information provision (above) and educational work (below). New members are always welcome. As a Burren visitor we would urge that you support these businesses, encourage others to join the network, and thereby ensure meaningful support for a sustainable future for the Burren.

Eco-Beo: My Burren Heritage

The Eco-Beo programme of heritage education events, delivered by Burrenbeo with support from the Burren Connect Project, is now entering its fifteenth week. Seven modules of the 10-module, 20 week course, have been completed by the 200+ course participants: A Burren introduction, The Geology of the Burren, the Burren in prehistory, the Burren in historical times, Farming and Conservation in the Burren, the flora of the Burren and the fauna of the Burren. Presenters included Zena Hctor, Brendan Dunford and Gordon D'Arcy. Remaining installments include the Culture of the Burren followed by a field trip and graduation. Fortnightly newsletters containing revision material and assignments are being sent by e-mail to participating schools - www.burrenbeo.com/learning-ecobeo-links.aspx

Café Beo

For the best coffee in the Burren, tasty homemade vegetarian lunches, free wireless broadband, a free Burren library to peruse, friendly staff and a wonderful ambience, please visit Café Beo on Main Street Kinvara, just upstairs from the Burrenbeo Resource Centre. The perfect place to chill. Open Wednesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm.

