

Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter April 2010 (Issue No. 40)

## Join the Burrenbeo Trust today - we need your help

This e-newsletter is a free resource to those interested in the Burren but if you really want to make a difference, please become a Burrenbeo Trust member and your support will be invested directly in local educational initiatives, info dissemination and work on the sustainable future of the Burren.



## Burren Insight Issue 2

- launched April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

Get your copy of the Burren's only dedicated publication. Full colour, 56 pages, sure to be a collector's item. Contributors to this edition include:

- Bishop William Walsh (Patron)
  - Marion Dowd (Archaeologist)
  - David Drew (Geologist)
  - Michael Starrett (Heritage Council)
  - Sharon Parr (Ecologist)
  - PJ Curtis (Folklore) and many others.
- €5 from Burrenbeo or local outlets.

## Call for a Burren Charter

Michael Starrett, Chief executive of the Heritage Council of Ireland has called for the development of a revolutionary new charter for the Burren. Described as *An opportunity for everyone who values the Burren to work together and put together an agreed action plan to safeguard its future for everyone* Mr. Starrett emphasises that a Burren Charter cannot be imposed, it must be requested. In an article in Burren Insight, he also states

that *the Heritage Council has secured resources to allow the concept of a Burren Charter to develop further in 2010 and perhaps even move to a much more practical stage.* The call comes at a pivotal time for the Burren, with discussion on a number of landscape options including World Heritage Sites and Geoparks taking place. Full article in Burren Insight 2. Comments please to [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com).

**Bear bones and Viking necklaces** Dr. Marion O'Dowd has uncovered some fascinating finds in her excavation of Glencurran cave near Carron. These include a 10,000 year old bear scapula and a 70-bead Viking necklace (the largest of its kind in Ireland), composed of glass beads with gold foil. The cave was used as a place of ritual veneration over 3,000 years ago. Info and images in BI 2

**Burren Spring Clean 2010** Join the Burren Conservation Volunteers for a Spring Clean of the Burren on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> next. Our volunteers will gather at a number of designated sites for a 3-4 hour clean-up. We would really appreciate your help. Contact Brigid: [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

## Burren News

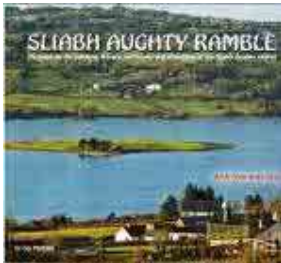
**Flowering season delayed** Early visitors to the Burren expecting to see some of the region's famous flowers will be disappointed to learn that the extremely cold spring has delayed flowering by several weeks. No gentian (image below) sightings have yet been reported, and only in the past week have the first flowerings of the beautiful metallic-blue coloured blue moor grass (feár boirne, Burren grass) been seen. Lesser celandines and primroses are some of the few plants in flower, while the beautiful yellow brimstone butterfly has also been seen.



**The Burren Law School 2010: Power - its Uses and Abuses, a Contemporary & Brehon Perspective.** Speakers include Alan Dukes, Chairman, Anglo Irish Bank, Matt Cooper - Broadcaster and Author of "Who Really Runs Ireland?", Prof. Brian Lucey - School of Economics, T.C.D. and Pat Rabbitte - TD. Director: Kieran McGrath. Friday 30th April - Sunday 2nd May 2010 at the Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare. [www.burrenlawschool.org](http://www.burrenlawschool.org) Bookings 065 7077200.

**The Cuckoo is coming to town** In celebration of the Burren being one of the best places in Ireland to hear the cuckoo, the Fleadh na gCuach (The Cuckoo Festival) is kicking off on the 30<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> May in Kinvara. As part of the festival Gordon D'Arcy is having a talk about the cuckoo on the 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Burrenbeo Trust Building, Main Street, Kinvara at 8pm. The talk is free and everyone is welcome. For more information on this unique festival go to [www.kinvara.com/cuckoo](http://www.kinvara.com/cuckoo)

**Slógadh Eachtaí.** The 5<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Aughty Gathering at Gort community centre, April 17<sup>th</sup>



A celebration of hospitality and an opportunity to share local knowledge of the Slieve Aughty Mountains. Theme: *Making it Happen - Our Own Stories*. Free entry, all welcome. Contact Mary Coen 0863823765/ [slogadheachtai@gmail.com](mailto:slogadheachtai@gmail.com) or visit [www.aughty.org](http://www.aughty.org) Also, a new book by Gerard Madden titled the Sliabh Aughty Ramble will be launched in Woodford Hall on Sat. April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm by Ulick Burke T.D. Musings on the folklore, history, landscape and literature of the region, this is a one hundred and eighty page, indexed, publication with 120 illustrations (left).

**Ballyvaughan Farmers Market** Easter Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> will mark the return of the Ballyvaughan Farmers Market for its 7<sup>th</sup> season. Located at St John's Hall Car Park, opposite the Garda Station every Saturday from 10am til 2pm. Info from Tracey Kelly 065 7076963 or 087 2911092 or [tracey@ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie](mailto:tracey@ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie) or [www.ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie](http://www.ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie)

**Kinvara Farmers Market** will be re-opening on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of April from 10am to 2pm. In its second year of trading this Friday morning market takes place in the courtyard of Johnston's Garden. More than 20 stall holders, fresh fish, free range duck and hen eggs, Irish cheeses, Organic vegetables, root vegetables, free range chicken and bacon, fresh fruit, ice-cream and more. With local musicians Johnny Moynihan, Frank Hall, John Martin and friends, a great day out for all.

**Burren 360 views** - Check out [www.mickiwiki.com/BURREN/BURREN.html](http://www.mickiwiki.com/BURREN/BURREN.html) for a whole new way of experiencing the Burren. With its wonderful panoramic images of the Burren, this unique image gallery makes you feel as if you are right in the middle of things.

**The Burren inspiring art.** The Burrenbeo Trust is delighted to show the work of Erin Treacy in the Burrenbeo Trust building from the 10<sup>th</sup> April-22<sup>nd</sup> May. Erin is a Fulbright student in Ballyvaughan and we are delighted to have the opportunity to show her enchanting paintings that have been inspired by the Burren in the Trust gallery space. We welcome everyone to come view the paintings during the above dates in café opening hours. There will be an opening night on the 10<sup>th</sup> April between 7.30pm-9.30pm. For more information on Erin's work please go to [www.erintreacy.com](http://www.erintreacy.com)

## Burrenbeo Trust Events Calendar for April 2010 (print and post)

**Sat April 3<sup>rd</sup> Ballyvaughan Farmers Market** - the 7<sup>th</sup> season of this popular market. St John's Hall Car Park, every Saturday from 10am til 2pm. Info from Tracey Kelly 065 7076963 or 087 2911092

**Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> April Slieve Carron Nature Reserve.** Burrenbeo Trust April walk *Easter flowers* with Dr. Stephen Ward and Dr. Sharon Parr. Free for members, €5 charge for non-members. For more information contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638-096.

**Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> April, Fanore** Fanore Shore Walk. Duration: 2.5hrs. Meet O'Donohue's pub Fanore @10.30am Leader: Michael Queally 086 0767776. [www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com](http://www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com)

**Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> April, Kinvara** Kinvara Farmer's Market reopens for its second season. 10am-2pm behind Johnston's Hall on Main street. Loads of great food, drink and live music from the lean-to trio!

**Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> April, Burren** Spring Cleaning in the Burren with the Burren Conservation volunteers. Meet great people and make a real difference to this beautiful landscape. [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> April, Kinvara** Erin Treacy is having an opening night for her artwork at the Burrenbeo Trust Building, Main St, Kinvara. For more info. contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096.



**Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> April, Kinvara** Burrenbeo Trust April talk: *New Perspectives on old stones - a virtual view of the Burren* with Dr Ronan Hennessy @ 8.30pm, Burrenbeo Trust, Kinvara. Free for members, €5 charge for non-members. For more information contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096.

**Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> April, Doolin** Michael Dunleavy Charity Walk. All Road, Duration: 2hrs. Meet: 12.30 Russell Centre. Leader: John Sharry 087 2750315 [www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com](http://www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com)

**Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Doolin** 2.5hrs loop walk. Meet: Connor's Pub 10.30am, walk 11am. Description; 2/3 off road & coastal. Michael Queally 086 0767776 [www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com](http://www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com)

**Thurs. 29<sup>th</sup> April, Kinvara** Gordon D'Arcy is carrying out a talk to celebrate the return of the cuckoo. This is at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Main Street, Kinvara @8pm. Free entry. More info on the festival: [www.kinvara.com/cuckoo](http://www.kinvara.com/cuckoo)



**Easter Greetings**

*Going Cuckoo in Kinvara (above), where are the Spring gentians? (below)*



## Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

**Ecobeo 2010** Burrenbeo Trust has just launched its heritage education programme in four Burren schools this March - Ruan, Northampton, Ballinderreen and Carron. Over a period of ten weeks, with the help of local heritage experts Ronan Hennessy, Eugene Lambe, Zena Hector, Gordon d'Arcy, Brendan Dunford, Sarah O'Malley, Brigid Barry and Antoinette O'Brien, 75 young Burren residents will be taken through an exciting voyage of discovery about the Burren and graduate as Burren experts. This knowledge will support a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility for the future guardians of the Burren and is an invaluable investment in the future of the Burren.



**Cafébeo, Kinvara.** Cafébeo is now open Wed - Sat 10.30-4.30. Great food and coffee, loads of free Burren info. So do drop in, support the 100% non-profit conservation café. Plus, 10% discount for Trust members.

**Burren Conservation Volunteers** is a LA21-funded group set up by the Trust to tackle key conservation issues around the Burren. Register with [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) Next event: April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Trust's Monthly Talk** This month's talk is with Dr. Ronán Hennessy on *New perspectives on old stones - a virtual look at the Burren*. Ronán carried out his Doctorate in NUI Galway researching innovative 3D visualisation and multimedia technologies for geoscience education and is currently the Burren Geopark Geologist with the Burren Connect Project. Ronán also lectures at NUI Galway. The talk will be carried out in the Burrenbeo Trust Centre on the 15<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30pm. It is free to Trust members and a €5 minimum donation from non-members. For more info contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091638096. The Trust is very grateful to Dr Anne Byrne who delivered a fascinating talk in March on the *Letters and Diaries of the Irish Harvard Mission*.

**Trust's Monthly Walk** This month's walk is with Drs. Stephen Ward and Sharon Parr and is titled *Easter flowers*. Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. Meet at Slieve Carron Nature Reserve (aka Eagle's Rock). Sheet 52 M 333 035. Dr Sharon Parr is the Scientific Advisor with the BurrenLIFE project, and is the joint Botanical Society of the British Isles Recorder (along with Stephen Ward) for Clare. Dr Stephen Ward trained as a botanist and worked in nature conservation in Wales, England and Scotland, before retiring to Ireland. He is currently the joint BSBI recorder for Clare, chairs Clare Biodiversity Ltd, is a Director of the Burrenbeo Trust and chairs the UK-Ireland Limestone Pavement Group. This walk is free for Burrenbeo Trust members and is a €5 minimum donation for non-members. [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096. Thanks to Paul Gosling for carrying out the March walk on *Ruins and remnants on the brink on a bay* and showing everyone a castle in Ballyvaughan that very few knew existed!

**Butterfly workshop** The Burrenbeo Trust will host a butterfly workshop in association with Dr Eugenie Regan of the National Biodiversity Data Centre on the 24<sup>th</sup> April in Kinvara. The Burren is home to the rarest of Ireland's butterflies, the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, the Brown Hairstreak and the Wood White. Not only are they rare, but the Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the Brown Hairstreak are under threat of extinction in Ireland. The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme is training volunteers to monitor these species and help conserve them.

