

## Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter April 2011 (No. 52)

### Burren News

**Welcome** to this month's Burren Newsletter with lots of exciting developments to report.

There is a growing sense of anticipation in the Burren around this time as reports arrive to [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com) about the first sightings of Burren specialities such as the Spring gentian, reported from Fanore (as usual) on March 18th. This welcome re-emergence from a winter of dormancy is normally mirrored by that of local B&Bs, hotels and restaurants, gearing up for a new season. This year, the Burren visitor has the additional benefit of being able to choose from a superb selection of 'green' Burren providers all of whom have spent several years developing a new **Burren Ecotourism Network** which was recently launched by Darina Allen - check out [www.burrenecotourism.com](http://www.burrenecotourism.com) for more.

But the flowers aren't just for the tourists - farmers too are delighted to see the metallic blue heads of the Burren grass 'féar boirne' (blue moor grass). This wonderful spring flowering grass provides an invaluable nutrient boost to outwintering cattle during the 'hungry months' of March and April when the winter fodder has been exhausted but the summer pastures aren't yet ready for grazing. 'The old and the new' grasses growing together signal better times ahead for man and beast.



Spring gentian *Gentiana verna* (l) and blue moor grass *Sesleria caerulea* (above) now on show in the Burren!

Recent research ([www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)) suggests that the ecosystem services provided by our biodiversity - hardworking bees for example - are worth billions to our economy, particularly in places such as the Burren where the presence of over 70% of Ireland's native flowering plants attracts not only a huge array of insects and wildlife, but also lots of discerning tourists. To acknowledge and celebrate this often overlooked and underappreciated resource, Burrenbeo Trust is teaming up with Ballyvaughan Community Development Assn. to organise the month-long 'Burren in Bloom' festival in May [www.burreninbloom.com](http://www.burreninbloom.com). We're also supporting 'Fleadh na Gcuach' in Kinvara ([www.kinvara.com](http://www.kinvara.com)) - another Burren festival celebrating our wonderful wildlife, and the return of the Cuckoo from Africa.

### **Burren Insight Issue 3**



The third edition of our flagship annual magazine has just arrived into our office fresh off the printing press. This year we have a bumper issue with articles by Michael Viney, Peter Harbison, Sarah Poyntz and Anne Byrne addressing subjects as diverse as birds, bats, bees, ring forts, 12<sup>th</sup> century tourists, hazel woodlands and farming for conservation! The wealth of material, all Burren related, is really extraordinary and a reflection on what an amazing heritage hotspot the Burren represents. BI3 is free to all Trust members - we would encourage members to pick up their copy from the Kinvara office if possible ([trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096). If you are not a member and wish to receive a copy, the magazine costs €6 + €2 p&p (Eire and NI) or €6 + €4.50 (elsewhere). Back issues 1 & 2 also available. Please send a cheque with your address to Burrenbeo Trust, Main St, Kinvara, Co. Galway or call 091 638096 with your credit card.

**A new Chapter in the Burren - a new 'Burren Charter'?** At the recent Burren Spring Conference the idea of developing a community-led Charter for the future of the Burren was launched to very positive response from conference delegates. Funded by the Heritage Council, this is a radical departure in participatory democracy through which local communities are being encouraged and empowered to become architects of their own destiny. It is being supported by local organisations such as Burrenbeo Trust, Burren Connect, Burren IFA, BurrenLIFE and the local Authorities. A community consultation phase is planned for this summer. [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) with any thoughts or ideas please!

**Running for the good of it** Ireland's most scenic marathon The Burren Marathon takes place on the 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2011. Register now on [www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com](http://www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com) How about this year, walking or running for a local charity - the Burrenbeo Trust? Not only will you get fit but you will be really helping Ireland's only landscape charity, the Burrenbeo Trust. Contact Brigid on [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**A Community Fund** The proceeds from Ballyvaughan Farmers Market Recipe Book have been collected into a Community Fund which is now inviting applications for funding of all types of projects in the Burren area. The funding is directed particularly at "not for profit" activities and projects. Applications will be accepted from 14<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May and funding released by early June. For application forms contact Chris Keane, Lismactigue, Ballyvaughan or email [secretarybfm@hotmail.com](mailto:secretarybfm@hotmail.com). Also see [www.ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie](http://www.ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie) or contact Deborah 086 8038477 or Tracey 087 2911092

**Other tidbits of news....**the verbal recording group, **Cumineamh na chláir**, have just launched a newsletter - to receive it contact [clarememories@eircom.net](mailto:clarememories@eircom.net) or visit [www.clarememories.ie](http://www.clarememories.ie) ....



....**Imeco farm** are opening a visitor centre in Clarecastle in time for Easter with butterfly tunnels, gardens with high biodiversity and examples of renewable energy on display [www.imecofarm.com/](http://www.imecofarm.com/) .... Irish travel writer, **Catherine Mack** has just launched an app for Iphones and I pads called Ireland Green Travel which features green accommodation, activities, transport and local food experts

**Burren in Bloom 2011 - Bee there!!** [www.burreninbloom.com](http://www.burreninbloom.com)

## Burrenbeo Trust Events Calendar for April 2011 (print and post!)

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> April Kinvara** and every Friday 10am-1pm. Kinvara Farmers Market reopens April 1<sup>st</sup> at the beautiful walled garden behind Johnston's Hall on Main Street.

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Carron.** A weekend of exploring ecology in the Burren. NUIG Botany Society presents workshops on *the identification of ground beetles*, on *Bryophytes* and on *Native trees and shrubs* on Saturday and *Botanical sketching classes for beginners and improvers* between 11-4pm on Sunday in Carron NUIG field station. All welcome. Call Anna (087 2176338) or Caitriona (086 3194210) to book.

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April Kinvara.** Johnston's Hall 8pm Concert: The Higglers with Frank Hall, Lena Ullman, Brendan Hearty (guitar) and Paul Johnson (bass). Appalachian melodies, back-country vocals, and heel-kicking dance beats flavour their old-time, pre-bluegrass, boogie music. Admission €10/8

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Kilcorney** The Burrenbeo Trust April walk will be with Michael Davoren on *Rich Heritage in the Midst of a Farm*. Meet at 2pm (OS51 995 226). For further info, please call Richard on 087 2074205. Not to be missed, free for Trust members and €5 for non-members

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> April. Fanore.** The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group will meet at 10.30am outside O'Donoghue's Pub for the Ballyreen loop walk. For more information contact Martin on 087 9308047.

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April. Ballyvaughan** The MFA Graduation Art Exhibition is opening at 5pm in the Burren College of Art, Newtown Castle. Music at 7pm. Open to all until 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> April. Doolin.** The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group will meet at 12.30am outside Russell Centre for the Michael Dunleavy Charity Walk. Contact Martin 087 9308047/John 087-2750315.

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> April, Fanore.** The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group will meet at 11am at Fanore Beach to go up Murrough Mountain Loop. For more info contact Michael on 086 0767776.

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> April. Kinvara.** To mark the start of the Cuckoo Festival, the Burrenbeo Trust in April will be on this date with ornithologist, John Murphy on Cuckoos. It will be at 8.30pm in the Burrenbeo Trust building, Kinvara This is free for Trust members and €5 for non-members. [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April. Kinvara.** The Cuckoo Fleadh (Fleadh na gCuach) begins. For more information on this fantastic weekend of music and events for all the family, just go to [www.kinvara.com](http://www.kinvara.com)

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup> May. Caherconnell.** The Burrenbeo Trust May talk is with archaeologist Michelle Comber looking at the stone fort and the excavation at Caherconnell. This is free for Trust members and €5 for non-members. For more information contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**Fri - Sun April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> Ballyvaughan** The Burren Law School "Imagining a New Republic" With Guest Director, Fintan O'Toole [www.burrenlawschool.org](http://www.burrenlawschool.org)



Get some of that flower power in the Burren this May - full prog. on [www.burreninbloom.com](http://www.burreninbloom.com)

## Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

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**Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers** The BCVs will be doing a clean up as part of An Taisce clean up month around Lough Bunny. This will be complemented by various ecologists on site to give an insight about the flora and fauna that exists around the lough. To be included in the BCV mail out or to gather more information on the activities of the volunteers please register with Kate on [burrencv@gmail.com](mailto:burrencv@gmail.com). Join Burrenbeo Trust on Facebook to see photos & activities of the volunteers.

**Trust's Monthly Walk** This month's walk is with Burrenbeo Trust Patron and member of the Farm Heritage Tours, Michael Davoren, on *Rich heritage in the midst of a farm* at 2pm in Kilcorney. Directions: if you pass Poulabrone on your left and leave Caherconnell on your right, 1km after Caherconnell Ring Fort is a crossroads. Take a right here. Then take the first left (c.200m) and the meeting spot is just up the hill (OS51 995 226). The organiser on the day is Richard Morrison - please phone 087 2074205 if you get lost. The Trust is grateful to the Mary Howard for her fascinating walk to the Blackhead ringfort in March. Our Walks and Talks are sponsored by LA 21 Agenda funding.

**Trust's Monthly Talk for April** will be with ornithologist and wildlife photographer John Murphy on the subject of the Cuckoo. This will be held at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre in Kinvara at 8.30pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. This is free for Trust members and €5 for non members. For more information contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096. The Trust is grateful to Caoilte Breathnach for bringing his images from the Robert Cresswell archive for the March talk.

**A new crop of Burren experts** The Burrenbeo Trust 2011 Ecobeo 'Our Burren' heritage course in local schools is in full swing. 75 young Burren residents from Oranmore, Doorus, Ballyvaughan and Fanore national schools are taking part in this 20-week exciting voyage of discovery about the Burren to graduate as young Burren experts. This knowledge will hopefully support a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility for the future custodians of the region. We are grateful to geologist Ronan Hennessy and heritage consultant Zena Hoctor for leading their time and expertise in teaching the geology and archaeology/history elements of the course during March. Coming up this month, Eugene Lambe, musician and folklore collector will give the children an insight into the rich culture that exists in the region. The Burrenbeo Trust are grateful to the Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group and anonymous donors for their support in allowing Ecobeo to take place this year.

**Burrenbeo Trust building** Cafébeo is closed until further notice. However, the Burrenbeo Trust team are still large at work from Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm. Call by or phone 091 638096.

**Burrenbeo Trust Dublin Gala** For those who have read this far: Burrenbeo Trust are holding a gala event in Dublin on April 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the wonders of the Burren and the work of Burrenbeo Trust. Further information on this very exciting event to follow, or contact Brigid at [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**Be connected** Don't forget to join the Burrenbeo Trust on Facebook to get weekly updates.



Join us to celebrate the Burren in Bloom from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup> [www.burreninbloom.com](http://www.burreninbloom.com)