

Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter August 2010 (No. 44)

Creating a learning space for the Burren

The Burrenbeo Trust, with support from Galway Rural Development Ltd, have been busy enhancing their resource centre in Kinvara to help provide locals and visitors alike with a better insight to the wonders of the Burren. From new wildflower posters to information panels, from an on-line information portal to a wide range of heritage publications, the Trust building has more than ever to offer young and old.



Visitors to the centre will find a range of Burren wildlife adorning the walls - from feral goats to Irish hares, all beautifully brought to life by wildlife artist, Gordon D'Arcy. You can even go on a wildflower hunt, searching out orchids and gentians in all sorts of unusual locations.



The Trust is now available to take groups of primary school children (supervised by their teachers, of course!) and to do a 'wild child in the Burren' session with them; this involves learning about the Burren both in centre and through outdoor games. Days are designed around the ages of the children. Basic rate is €5 per child. For more info

contact trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE BURREN The Burrenbeo Trust does not receive any State-funding or core funding grants. While we receive grants towards some of our projects, we need to match these grants with our own funds. Also, such grants make no contribution to our overhead costs. As a result, we need to raise an additional €20,000 core funding to allow us to meet our goals for 2010.

Did you know? If you donate €250 or more to the Burrenbeo Trust as a company, your Company can claim tax back on it at 12.5%. If you are self-employed you can also claim tax back on your donation, up to 41%. If you are a PAYE earner we can claim tax back, again up to 41%.

How can you help? We are appealing to the members, friends and supporters around the world to whom this monthly newsletter is sent free of charge. You can donate by going to www.burrenbeo.com then to the Trust page where there is a **DONATE TO THE TRUST** option.

The Burrenbeo Trust would like to thank you for the positive response we have had so far towards our fundraising appeal. We are grateful for all the donations that have come in. Current total: €960, Target €20k!

Burren News

New Burren Farmers for Conservation Announced. The Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) have notified over 100 Burren farmers that they are invited to partake in the new Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (BFCP). The BFCP is a unique agri-environmental programme aimed at conserving the habitats of the Burren which will pay farmers for producing species rich grasslands. The programme is jointly funded by the DAFF and the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. In response to the announcement the BFCP manager Dr Brendan Dunford said "We are really looking forward to working with these farmers in the coming years. We are confident that these farmers will prove that farming for conservation works, thereby helping protect this wonderful landscape and securing a better future for all Burren farmers".

Of the 338 farmers who applied for the BFCP, just over 100 were selected by the DAFF based on a range of strict environmental criteria including the extent of designated land and number of listed monuments on the farm as well as their history of REPS participation. Regarding unsuccessful applicants, Dunford stated "It's a real shame that sufficient funding isn't available to accommodate all 300 plus Burren farmers who want to farm for conservation, but we will continue to do our utmost to secure additional on-going funding for the BFCP and to promote the importance of farming in the Burren, and we would urge all people who care about the Burren to do likewise".

Pumped Hydro Proposal Rejected A cork based company, Organic Power Ltd, who were proposing to locate a sea-water pumped hydroelectric energy storage scheme on Gleninagh Mountain, west of Ballyvaughan, have seen their proposal roundly rejected. In a ballot on the proposal, 89% of the 387 voters opposed the €400-€500m, 836MW proposal. Managing director of Organic Power, Maurice McCarthy, who had claimed that the communities would receive €600,000 per year for 50 years towards community projects when the scheme was operational, confirmed that the company would not now be proceeding with baseline studies, and claimed the large No vote was down to a "very loud vocal Nimby [Not In My Backyard] group.

Photographing wildlife *Meet Your Neighbours* is a photographic initiative that reveals the wildlife living amongst us. Carsten Krieger is the only Irish-based photographer that is part of this initiative. Carsten's images from this project will feature in the next edition of Burren Insight. www.meetyourneighbours.org

Dancing at Lughnasa - Burren style A novel means of engaging with the Burren will be introduced by dance teacher Gwen McHale who will host a workshop for adults using contemporary dance techniques to give a greater sense of presence and openness to the environment. It will be held in Slieve Carran Nature Reserve. The choreography will be accompanied by live musicians. No previous dance experience is necessary. Gwen is a dancer in residence with the well-renowned Daghda Dance Company, she is also a founding member of the Galway Dance Cooperative, and company director of the Spirit Centre in Galway. The workshop will be held on the 28th August, €35, with a 10% discount for Trust members. 15 places, booking is necessary. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.



Successful Heritage Course - coming again soon. The Burrenbeo Trust completed its first adult EcoBeeo Heritage Course last month with 28 individuals. This two day introductory course explored the heritage of the Burren through classroom talks and site visits, and was part-funded by the Heritage Council. Thanks to top Burren experts David Drew, Marion Dowd, Michael Lynch, Eugene Lambe, Patrick McCormack, Gordon D'Arcy, Sharon Parr and Brendan Dunford for sharing their expertise and infectious enthusiasm for their subject matter. We received such positive feedback the Trust has decided to carry out an evening course through September and October. To register your interest: trust@burrenbeo.com or call 091 638096.



Burrenbeo Trust Events Calendar for August 2010 (print post!)

Every Wed in August, Kinvara. Wednesday Walks. Meet at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Main St, Kinvara. Free for members and a €5 non-members. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Every Wed in Aug. Coole Park. Children's Nature Activities every Wed. 2.30-4pm. Free, but booking essential. All children to be accompanied by an adult. 091 631804 or info@coolepark.ie

Sun 8th Aug. New Quay. A walk along the Flaggy Shore with Kevin McCormack. Meet by Russell Gallery at 10.30. 086 3272472 or www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Thu 19th Aug. Ballyvaughan. *The Burren through Literature* by Paul Clements is the Trust's August talk. 8.30pm in the Burren College of Art. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Sat 21st Aug. Kinvara. *Wild Child in the Burren* is a scavenger hunt for children and parents in Slieve Carran Nature Reserve. Meet in Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Main St, Kinvara at 9.30am or SCNR at 10am. €5 per child or €20 per family. Contact trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Sat, 21st Aug. Fanore. *The Great Burren Run* offers participants a full, half marathon or 10k run. First marathon to be held in Fanore. www.fanore-info.com or Kevin on 086 3272472.

Sat, 21st - 29th Aug. Cliffs of Moher. *Wood Carving Exhibition* with Shane Gilmore. For more information contact bookings@cliffsofmoher.ie

Sun, 22nd Aug. Ennis. *Sky Ride Etape Hibernia* offers an 82-mile cycle around the Burren. For more information go to www.etapehibernia.com

Sun, 22nd Aug. Abbey Hill. *Abbey Hill Seven Churches* with Kevin McCormack. Meet at Green Road on top of Corker Hill at 10.30am. 086 3272472 or www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Sun, 22nd Aug. Slieve Carran. *Feral Goats: habits and habitats* with Bryony Williams and Ruth Enright. Meet at Slieve Carran Nature Reserve at 2pm. Free, but donations to the Burrenbeo Trust welcome. For more information, contact trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Sun, 22nd Aug. Blackhead. *Whale watching* with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. Meet at the Blackhead Lighthouse. Free. For more information contact Joanne on 086 8657633.

Sun, 22nd - 29th Aug. Caherconnell Stone Fort. *Excavation & Re-enactment.* Demonstrations each day all day of early Bronze Age pottery production and bronze casting.

Thu, 26th Aug. Kinvara. *Mapping the Burren and its Ancient Settlements* with Christine Grant at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Main St, Kinvara at 8.30pm. Free for Trust members and €5 for non-members. Contact Brigid Barry on trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Sat, 28th Aug. Slieve Carran. *Body and Landscape* through a dance workshop with Gwen McHale. Meet at Slieve Carran Nature Reserve (Eagle's Rock) at 11.30am. €35 for workshop with 10% discount for Trust members. Limited spaces. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Sun 29th Aug. Gortlecka Cross. *Lets hear it for the Trees!* A guided walk with Tony Kirby at 10am. €5 per adult. For more information contact info@heartofburrenwalks.com

Sun 29th Aug. Murroughtoohy. *Flowers and ferns of Blackhead* with Stephen Ward. Meet at the Murroughtoohy lay-by at Blackhead at 2pm. Free for Trust members and €5 for non-members. For more information, contact Brigid Barry on trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.



Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

Embrace Our Heritage The Burren is a hotspot for heritage and the Trust is celebrating this by holding numerous events during Heritage Week (21st-29th August). The diverse range of events allow all ages to engage in heritage through different means; from dance workshops to research projects, from general guided walks to a family treasure hunt. So get more involved and get outside to learn more about this incredible landscape. Check out the Event list above for our activities or go to www.heritageweek.ie

Wednesday walks in the Burren



The Burrenbeo Trust is carrying out Wednesday walks in the Burren for the month of August. Meet at the Burrenbeo Trust Building, Kinvara @ 3.30pm every Wednesday. Children welcome, dogs on leashes only. Walks are free for Trust members and a donation from non-members. For more info on walks or to organise an educational walk/ talk for any visiting group, contact Brigid 091 638096.

Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers - Doing our bit for the Burren! The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers are grateful to botanist Sharon Parr and NPWS Burren ranger Emma Glanville for giving their time in guiding the volunteers through addressing the conservation issue of hazel encroachment by cutting it back. The next outing is at Mullaghmore on the 14th August clearing back the dead bushes to allow for growth of rare flowers in the mountain side. Everyone welcome, please register with trust@burrenbeo.com so you are included in the volunteer mail outs. BCVs is a LA21-funded group set up by the Trust to tackle key conservation issues around the Burren.

Trust's Monthly Talk This month's talk is with Paul Clements on *The Burren through Literature* in the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan at 8.30pm on the 19th August. Free for Trust members and €5 for non-members. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096. The Trust is grateful to Noel Healy for his interesting aspect on interpretative centres *A Critique of Protected Area Planning in Ireland* as our July talk.

Trust's Monthly Walk This month's walk was superbly led by Olive Carey on the *Archaeology of Corcomroe Abbey and its Environs* The Trust is grateful to Frank O'Grady and Michael Killeen on opening up their lands and their expertise for our July talk on *Farming in the Burren through the ages*.

Cafébeo. The Burren's only conservation café is grateful to St.Tola in supporting the work of the Burrenbeo Trust by providing the cafe with goat's cheese free of charge for our menu - so do come in and try it! Cafébeo is open Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, and Sun 11am-4pm. Drop in and support this 100% non-profit conservation café.

The Burrenbeo Trust Information Centre The Burrenbeo Centre is currently showing an exhibition by UCD architect graduate, Joanne Lyons during August. Her exhibition 'FARM-house' is played out through overlay, rubbings and cuttings of layers: landscape not a passive palimpsest but living and disruptive; embracing the laying down, eruptions and overturnings of geological time. In listening and learning from the landscape, an architecture that is rooted to the systems of farming and structures of the Burren is generated.



Also, the Burrenbeo Trust centre now receives the fantastic wildlife newspaper *Sherkin Comment*. Come to the Information Centre to get your free copy. Sherkin Marine Station have also developed a free online newsletter for children called Nature's Web www.naturesweb.ie

Visitor Payback Scheme Did you know that your tourism business could be more environmental-friendly and inviting to potential tourists by being part of the Visitor Payback Scheme. This scheme encourages local businesses to donate 1% of their profits to a local community project or charity. The Heart of the Burren walks has the Burrenbeo Trust as its chosen charity as part of this scheme.

A big thanks to the Kinvara Playschool Group who donated €520 to the work of the Trust. This money will go towards developing the children's environmental learning zone in the centre in Kinvara.

Are you on Facebook? Become of a friend of or 'like' the Burrenbeo Trust and be kept up to date regularly.