

Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter February 2010 (No. 38)

Burren Spring Conference - 5th to 7th of March, 2010



Business in the Burren: Sustaining Vibrant Communities. Business... and the Burren... the very juxtaposition of these concepts jars. How can such a unique and spiritual place be sullied by the philistine concept of commerce? And yet the Burren is an inhabited landscape not a wilderness for the re-creation of tourists. Its contours and corners have been shaped by civilisations throughout the millennia and today the families and communities that make up the Burren continue to make their homes and a living in this special place. As the economic downturn and Government retrenchment threaten the viability of rural communities, the conference examines notions

of community, belonging, resilience and sustainability through the prism of the Burren community. It challenges us to re-examine conventional values and business models and to co-create our own economic future in harmony with the Burren.

This year's conference is directed by Mary Hawkes Greene and boasts a wonderful range of speakers including Darina Allen, Fintan O'Toole, Pádraig O Ceidigh, economist Richard Douthwaite. A Courtyard Market and Ideas Marketplace will also feature. For programme see www.burrencollege.ie

Burren National Park Management Plan Work is currently underway to develop a seven year Management Plan for the Burren National Park. A public information meeting was held on Thurs. Jan 28th at Kilnaboy NS with a strong presence of local farmers and other stakeholders. The opinion of all those with an interest in the park is being sought in the development of this plan. 065-6822694

BurrenLIFE Project wraps up The BurrenLIFE farming for conservation project concluded its 5 year work programme on Jan. 31st. Funded by the EC LIFE Nature fund, sponsored by NPWS with Teagasc and Burren IFA as partners, the project achieved much over its 5 years both in terms of conservation work on the ground and by informing future management. One of the main objectives - and outputs - of the project was the development of a Blueprint for future conservation farming in the Burren. It is now hoped that this blueprint will form the basis of a future conservation programme for the Burren funded by the Dept of Agriculture and the NPWS. www.burrenlife.com for more info.



Passing of a Burren gentleman



The Burrenbeo Trust was saddened to learn of the recent death of Joseph Casey of Murrrough, Fanore. Joe was a man of huge generosity and spirit, loved not just by his neighbours in Fanore but across the Burren and beyond. He had a passion for farming which he put to good use on his beautiful farm which skirts above and around Black head, stocked with an eclectic mix of cows, cattle, donkeys and of course, Galway ewes. A great neighbour and a friend to many, Joe will be greatly missed. Burrenbeo would like to offer our sincere sympathies to the Casey family. May he rest in peace.

Getting stuck in: Burren Conservation Volunteers The first ever outing of the BCV will take place on the 6th February at Slieve Carran Nature Reserve in collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife Service. Come join us, meet some great people, get some fresh air and exercise and help make a real difference to the Burren. Also, we would like to hear of any suggestions you might have for future volunteering activities. Info and ideas to trust@burrenbeo.com or 091-638096.

Thanks to Local Agenda 21 for funding support, also McInerneys in Ennis for sponsoring equipment.

The Burren Challenge The Burren Marathon Challenge has been announced for the 22nd May this year. This is a full, half and mini-marathon in the Burren hills. www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com

Understanding the Burren Landscape - Geology Course in the Burren

This is a short introductory evening course on the rocks and history of the Burren landscape. The course is aimed at an audience with no prior knowledge of earth history or the Burren, but will appeal to those always eager to understand more about the Burren landscape. Topics covered will include the rock types found in the Burren; past environments of the Burren; surface and subterranean limestone landforms; measuring geological time. Venue: Burren Outdoor Education Centre, Turlough, Bell Harbour. Five classes and one field trip. Monday Evenings 7pm - 9pm [February 15th, 22nd; March 1st, 8th, 15th]. Cost: 50 euro. Contact: rhennesy@burren.ie or 065 707 2295.



Frozen turlough, east Burren. Flooding and Freezing - a winter to remember.

Burrenbeo Events Calendar for February 2010 (print and post!)

Tue. 2nd-26th Feb. Enistymon. *Enistymon Inside Out* is an exhibition of photos of the town.

Venue: The Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon.

Sat. 6th Feb. Slieve Carron Nature Reserve. The Burren Conservation Volunteers will work from 10am to 4pm. All welcome but please pre-register on trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Sat. 6th Feb. Ennis. *Kissing Sid James*, 8pm GLOR Theatre Ennis. A hilarious comedy by the newly formed North Clare group 'StoneMad Productions'. Starring Gerard Howard (Lisdoonvarna) and Theresa Leahy (Ballyvaughan). One night only. Tel: 065 6899091

Sun. 7th Feb. Poulnapuca. Burrenbeo Trust's February Walk will be with Bill McInerney on '*A Story of a Famine Road*' at 2pm. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096 for directions. €5 for non-members.

Sun. 7th Feb. Gort, 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Biodiversity 2010 - World Wetlands Day at Coole. Take a walk to the internationally famous Turlough / Lake with NPWS staff as part of World Wetlands Day.

Gordon D'Arcy, natural heritage expert & artist will host children's art workshops.

Sun. 7th Feb. Gort. Poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice will read at The Gallery Café at 8.30pm. Free entry.

Tue. 9th Feb. Kilnaboy. Kilnaboy Mapping and Local History group monthly talk features cover Robin Sheen talking about '*Below the Burren*'. Free entry, 8pm in XPO. More info. on 087 2925487.

Sat. 13th Feb. Kinvara. KAM is hosting a Mardi Gras party in the Kinvara Community Hall at 8pm. Everyone welcome. Singing, dancing and fancy dress. www.kamcollective.com for more information.

Sun. 14th Feb. Fanore. Annual Alzheimer's Walk. 2.5 hrs on Road/Green Road. Led by Mary Howard 087 2446807. Meet: O'Donoghue's Pub Fanore @12.30pm www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Thurs. 18th Feb. Corofin. Burrenbeo Trust Monthly Talk. Dr Peter Harbison - *Pilgrimage and relics in the 12th Century Burren*. 8.30pm in the Clare Heritage Centre. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Mon. 22nd Feb. Enistymon. North Clare Historical Society Lecture. *Holy Wells and Hooleys* with Fr. Denis Crosby at 8pm at the Courthouse Ennistymon. More information at 087 2925487.

Sun. 28th Feb. Fanore. Blackhead Loop Walk. Meet at 10.30am on Fanore beach. For more info go to www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Fri. 26th-29th Feb. Doolin. The Micho Russell Traditional Music Weekend of February. For more information contact info@michorussellweekend.ie or 065-7074595

March 1st - 7th Corofin Annual Trad Festival www.corofintradfest.com or tel. 086-6070941



Crossing the seven streams, Burrenbeo Trust Walk Summer 2009

Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

Burren Conservation Volunteers Help tackle key conservation issues around the Burren with our monthly volunteer outings. Next outing Sat. Feb 6th at Slieve Carran Nature Reserve. Info at trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096. Thanks to McInerneys Hardware store Ennis for helping sponsor equipment. With support from the Local Agenda 21 fund.

Trust's Monthly Talk Thurs. 18th February 8.30pm Dr Peter Harbison talking on the *Pilgrimage and relics in 12th century Burren* in the Clare Heritage Centre, Corofin. €5 for non-members. We would like to thank poet and writer, Brian Mooney for his enlightening and atmospheric talk on the 21st January in the Kilfenora Cathedral on 'Burren - Winterages and a quest for a Burren Core Image'.

Trust's Monthly Walk Sun. 7th February 2pm. *Story of a Famine Road*. Local Burren enthusiast Bill McInerney will guide us along a famine road at Poulaphuca and tell the story of the road and features along it. 3kms North of Carron on the Carron-Bellharbour road, meet at the turning to the left by a bungalow. €5 for non-members. Thanks to Brendan Dunford for *The Wonders of Winterage* January walk. In spite of the snow and ice, it was a beautiful fresh day at Slieve Carran.

Burrenbeo Trust's walks and talks programme 2010:

Walk	7th Feb	Bill McInerney	Poulnaphuca	Story of a famine road
Talk	18th Feb	Peter Harbison	Corrofin	Pilgrimage in 12th century Burren
Walk	7th Mar	Paul Gosling	Ballyvaughan	Ruins and remnants on the brink of the bay
Talk	18th Mar	Ann Byrne	Kinvara	Stories and people of the Burren
Walk	4th Apr	S Ward/S Parr	Slieve Carran	Spring flowers
Talk	15th Apr	Ronan Hennessy	Kinvara	New perspectives on old stones
Walk	2nd May	Cillian Roden	Fanore	Searching for botanical ghosts
Talk	20th May	Paul Clements	Ballyvaughan	Burren through literature
Walk	22nd May	Matthew Jebb	Mullaghmore	Wildflower hunt
Walk	6th June	Jesmond Harding	Gortlecka	Butterflies of the Burren
Talk	17th June	Maria Long	Carron	Biodiversity in the Burren

Advertising. The Burrenbeo Trust is currently putting together the next edition of Burren Insight, a bumper edition packed with a wide range of interesting contributions. If you have a Burren business that you wish to advertise please contact trust@burrenbeo.com Deadline is the 15th February.

Letters to the Editor. The Burren Insight will have a 'Letters to the Editor' section in the next issue. We invited members of the public to send in any comments or concerns that they have about the Burren, the Trust or others related issues. These should be sent to Burrenbeo Trust, Main St, Kinvara, Co. Galway or trust@burrenbeo.com Deadline is the 15th February.

Cafébeo, Kinvara. Cafébeo will be re-open this February. We'll be back serving out the best fair-trade organic coffee and homemade goodies in the Burren. So do drop in, support our 100% non-profit conservation café and don't forget to ask for your 10% discount if you are a Trust member! Winter opening hours remain the same: 10.30am - 4pm until further notice. Check website for details.

Join the Burrenbeo Trust - we need your help today!

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. **Contact us: 091-638096 / trust@burrenbeo.com**