

Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter February 2011 (No. 50)

Burren News

Welcome to our February newsletter. There is a slight touch of Spring in the Burren air these days with young goat kids and calves plentiful on the hills, catkins on the hazel trees and 'a grand stretch in the evenings'. The turloughs are low after a dry January, but there's plenty of wildfowl still to be seen commuting between the east Burren wetlands. St. Brigid's day is past and we look forward to the Season ahead. We hope you can visit us here soon in the magical Burren - just watch this space to find out all that's happening.



Free Burrenbeo Trust Roadshow - coming to a town near you!

The Burrenbeo Trust hosts a year-round range of events and activities in the Burren and distributes free information to those with an interest in the region. We are the leading provider of free, impartial information on the Burren to people all over the world through our website & mailing list. Burrenbeo Trust want to support sustainable local businesses. If you have a business in the Burren, small or large, please come along to our free Burren roadshows and learn more about the Burren and what the Burrenbeo Trust can offer you and your customers.

These events will entail a short talk on the magnificent landscape of the Burren as well as ideas about how the Burrenbeo Trust can help your business. Meet our staff and receive lots of free information materials. These events are free and open to everyone so do please come along on:

Tuesday 8th February at the Burrenbeo Trust (Kinvara) @11am, Logues (Ballyvaughan) @4pm.

Wednesday 9th February at the Clare Heritage Centre (Corofin) @11am and Hotel Doolin @4pm.

For more information, contact trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 091 638096.

Burren - Galway Ferry proposal A Clare-based company has sought tenders for a feasibility survey to assess the viability of the "Ballyvaughan Bay Hop" ferry. The principal aim of the project is to create a 12-seater passenger service to Galway from Ballyvaughan servicing north Clare. Galway is c50km away by road, a two hour journey in rush hour, but only 30min by sea.

Plaudits for Gregan's Castle John McKenna of the Bridgestone Guide has singled out Gregan's Castle in Ballyvaughan as one of the best places both to eat and stay in the country. "A number of people have said to me that his [chef Mickael Viljanen] food is some of the best food they've ever had in Ireland." Gregans is now offering a valentines special 'Romance in the Stones package' for two nights replete with champagne, flowers, dinner, breakfast and a half day's guided walk around the 'romantic' landscape of the Burren. See gregans.ie Source: *Irish Times*

Other news...The Michael Cusack Centre are hosting a series of exercise classes for children and adults in February. For more information go to www.michaelcusack.ie ...NUIG and Co. Clare VEC Adult Education Initiative are hosting Community Computer Classes on Wednesdays for 10 weeks from 7-9pm. To find out more, contact Mary on 065-6843633. Free to eligible applicants. Course begins Wednesday February 9th at 7.00pm

Fire tragedy in North Clare: We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Mossy and Jimmy Quinn who lost their lives in a horrific fire at their house at Kiltacky More near Boston last month. They will be sadly missed by the people of Boston, Tubber and beyond.

Burren Spring Conference 2011: The Burren - What is to be done?



This year's Burren Spring Conference promises to be an intriguing affair. Titled '*The Burren - What is to be done?*' the event will look at the enormous potential of the Burren and at models through which this potential might be better realised. Particular reference will be made to an exciting new initiative - the development of a Charter for the Burren which aims to support communities, sustain heritage and develop local business, farming and tourism.

Contributors will include Conor Newman (Heritage Council), Kevin Whelan (University of Notre Dame), Gabriel Cooney (NUI Dublin), Mary Mulvey (Greenbox), Michael Berkery (former General Secretary of the IFA), Gordon D'Arcy and a number of international guest speakers.

Venue: Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. Friday March 11th - Sunday March 13th 2011.

Conference fee: €60 (50% of usual cost!). Supported by The Heritage Council.

For more information contact Anna by on anna@burrencollege.ie or phone 065 7077200.

What I would do about the Burren?

A public invitation to speak with others who care

Should the Burren be developed? Should it be protected? Should it be publicised? Should it be enjoyed? Should it be left well alone? Should it...(insert your own question)? Opinions and passions about the Burren often run high and the 2011 Spring Conference will create a forum for the expression of your ideas. This is an invitation to YOU.

Your opinions will be important in all conference sessions and all guest speakers will take questions. Additionally - and this is new to the Burren Spring Conference - there will be two sessions dedicated to the opinions of the audience What I would do? (Saturday afternoon - see below) gives you an opportunity to make a short presentation. What will we do? (Sunday morning) provides a forum for group discussion in the 'World Café' format.

One hour of the conference will be given over to 10 presentations, each lasting 6 minutes, using a method of presentation known as "Pecha Kucha." <http://www.pecha-kucha.org> The idea is to share a lot of ideas without any one person taking all the time available. To register your interest in making an input, or to find out more, please contact anna@burrencollege.ie

Burrenbeo Trust Events Calendar for February 2011 (print & post!)

Sun. 6th February Doolin. The Burrenbeo Trust February walk will be with Mattie Shannon.

Titled *A court tomb and other heritage features around Doolin*, this walk will begin at 2pm outside McDermotts pub in Doolin. Email trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 091 638096 for more information.

Sun. 6th February Fanore. The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group will be walking up Slieve Elva.

Meet at Fanore Beach at 10.30am. Ring Martin on 087 9308047 for more details.

Tues. 8th February. Kinvara. Burrenbeo Trust Rodashow. BBT Centre, Main Street @11am.

Tues. 8th February. Ballyvaughan. Burrenbeo Trust Rodashow. Logues Hotel @4pm.

Wed. 9th February. Corofin. Burrenbeo Trust Rodashow, Clare Heritage Centre (Corofin) @11am.

Wed. 9th February. Doolin. Burrenbeo Trust Rodashow at Hotel Doolin @4pm.

Sun. 13th February Fanore. The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group will be hosting a walk for Alzheimer's. Meet at O'Donoghue's Pub in Fanore. Contact Michael on 086 0767776 for more info.

Thurs. 17th February Kinvara. The Burrenbeo Trust February talk is with Micheline Sheehy Skeffington on *Turloughs - Vanishing lakes or vanishing fields?* 8.30pm at the Burrenbeo Trust, Kinvara. Email trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 091 638096 for more information.

Mon. 28th February Corofin. *The Corofin Traditional Festival* will feature music, dance and much more. Runs for one week. For more information go to www.corofintradfest.com

Sat. March 5th Kinvara Rock & Road - half marathon and 10k road race. www.rockandroad.ie

Fri 11th - Sun 13th March Ballyvaughan The Burren Spring Conference 2011. The Burren - What is to be done? Venue: Burren College of Art. Contact anna@burrencollege.ie or 065 7077200.



Heading Home - Feral goats on the Burren, January 2011

Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers The new chief coordinator the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers is Kate Lavendar Duncan. The Burrenbeo Trust are delighted and grateful to Kate for her enormous support for BCV in the past and look forward to working with her in the months ahead. The next volunteer action day is the 12th February helping butterfly expert Jesmond Harding once again clearing an area important for the breeding of the rare Marsh Fritillary butterfly up near Carron. Also in February, the BCVs will be helping archaeologist Michelle Comber on the 20th February helping to clear around the Caherconnell excavation site. For more information on the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers action days, register with Kate on burrencv@gmail.com. We would like to thank Christine Grant so much for leading the volunteers out in early January and giving some much information on the Doolin Court Tomb.



A Burren Insight Burrenbeo Trust is preparing to publish the third issue of its Annual Magazine Burren Insight with contributions from Michael Viney, Peter Harbison, Castren Kreiger and many, many others. This is our flagship publication and is something we are very proud of. Producing such a high quality product costs a lot, so we would welcome any potential sponsorship or advertising to support this wonderful publication. Please contact us asap to help us publish what is fast becoming a collectors item for Burren enthusiasts. trust@burrenbeo.com for more information.

Trust's Monthly Walk This month's walk is with Doolin native and heritage enthusiast, Mattie Shannon. The title is *A court tomb and other heritage features around Doolin*. Please meet outside McDermotts pub on the north side of Doolin village at 2pm. This walk is open to everyone. It is free for Burrenbeo Trust Members and a donation from non-members. Be prepared for Irish weather- warm and waterproof clothes are recommended! For more information please email trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 091 638096. The Trust is grateful to Richard and Linda Morrison for leading the January walk around the blue route of Mullaghmore.

Trust's Monthly Talk will be with Micheline Sheehy Skeffington on *Turloughs - vanishing lakes or vanishing fields?* It will be held at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Main St, Kinvara on the 17th February at 8.30pm. This is free for Trust members and €5 for non members. trust@burren.com / 091 638096. The Trust is grateful to Maggie Ronayne for introducing us to *Lios an Run Famine settlement villages around Ballyvaughan* in January.

The Burrenbeo Trust building and Café beo are closed until mid-March. However, the Burrenbeo Trust team are still at work from Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm. If you wish to speak to a member of staff knock on the door or call 091-638096.

Watch out for - Eco Beo is coming back to a school near you in 2011 ... Burrenbeo Trust are heading to Dublin in April for a Gala event in celebration of the Burren and the Trust with some help from our friends at Ely Bar and Brasserie at the IFSC ... our website is being refreshed and will be relaunched in the coming months...BBT and Ballyvaughan Community Development Group are planning an extra special Burren in Bloom festival in the Burren this coming May ... so to help us with all this important work we would ask that you please, please,

please become a member of the Burrenbeo Trust today - we need your help!