

Burren News



Deep freeze hits the Burren The recent spell of cold weather has had a major impact on the Burren, as elsewhere in Ireland. Most inland water bodies, large and small, are frozen over causing water shortages for livestock. Many roads, particularly those in the Burren uplands, are impassable. Much of the ground is frozen hard causing difficulties for livestock and wildlife sourcing food. Following the extensive flooding in December, this certainly has been a period of extreme conditions which have caused real difficulties for many people in the Burren and beyond. Above: *a frozen Lough Gealain with Mullaghmore behind.*

Burren Conservation Volunteers The Burrenbeo Trust has received support through the Local Agenda 21 fund to carry out a volunteer programme in 2010. We hope to hold our first volunteer day in February in Slieve Carran Nature Reserve. Following this, the Burrenbeo Trust will allocate a day a month when individuals can come to an area in the Burren and help address key conservation issues such as scrub removal, rebuilding stone walls, litter picking, removing mini-dolmens and other work.

If you would prefer not to get your hands 'dirty' we also offer volunteer opportunities in our Trust building in Kinvara distributing Burren information, helping in the conservation café etc. We are currently compiling a list of people who are interested in volunteering for the Burrenbeo Trust. If you would like to register your interest and be kept informed of when the volunteer days will take place, email trust@burrenbeo.com

Burrenbeo Trust announces its Burren walks and talks programme for 2010

The Burrenbeo Trust has put together a draft schedule of its walks and talks programme for the next six months. Details regarding venues etc will follow closer to the individual event. Please keep an eye out on www.burrenbeo.com or contact Brigid on 087 9689486 for more information. Events are free to members, 5 euro min. donation for non-members.

Below: Burrenbeo's wet and windy December walk with Tony Kirby

Talk	21 st Jan	Brian Mooney	Venue tbc	<i>Winterages and a quest for a Burren core image</i>
Walk	7 th Feb	Bill McInerney	Cahercommaun	<i>Inside the world of Cahercommaun</i>
Talk	18 th Feb	Peter Harbison	Corrofin	<i>Pilgrimage and relics in 12th century Burren</i>
Walk	7 th Mar	Paul Gosling	Ballyvaughan	<i>Ruins and remnants on the brink of the bay</i>
Talk	18 th Mar	Ann Byrne	Kinvara	<i>Stories and people of the Burren</i>
Walk	4 th Apr	Stephen Ward/S Parr	Slieve Carron	<i>Spring flowers</i>
Talk	15 th Apr	Ronan Hennessy	Kinvara	<i>New perspectives on old stones</i>
Walk	2 nd May	Cillian Roden	Fanore	<i>Searching for botanical ghosts</i>
Talk	20 th May	Paul Clements	Ballyvaughan	<i>Burren through literature</i>
Walk	22 nd May	Matthew Jebb	Mullaghmore	<i>Wildflower hunt</i>
Walk	6 th June	Jesmond Harding	Gortlecka	<i>Butterflies of the Burren</i>
Talk	17 th June	Maria Long	Carron	<i>Biodiversity in the Burren</i>



175th year of O'Brien's Tower 2010 marks the 175th year of O'Brien's Tower, built on the highest point of the Cliffs of Moher. This was built as an observation tower for Victorians that frequented the Cliffs during the 19th century. It was renovated and reopened this year so people can appreciate the views as far as Loop Head and the Twelve Bens in Connemara.

Postponing of rail line opening Due to the recent floods, the train line between Limerick-Gort-Galway has had further delays and will not now open by January 2010 as planned.

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



Friday 1st-10th January Lahinch.

Kenny's will continue their annual Christmas Art Show until January 10, with more than 30 artists showcasing their work. For more info go to www.lahinchartgallery.com

Saturday 9th January Lisdoonvarna.

The North Clare film *Seaside Stories* will be screened at the Royal Spa in Lisdoonvarna at 8pm. The writer and director, Fergus Tighe, will introduce the film and take questions.

Saturday 9th January Ennistymon. Try a free dive with the Burren Sub Aqua Club group at 6pm at the Lahinch pool. Contact galbren@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday 10th January Ballyvaughan

Loop Walk. Duration: 4 hrs. Meet: Logues pub Ballyvaughan 10.30. Leader: Joe Lillis 086 2532308. Visitors

welcome but must pay €10 on the day. Bring a snack and drinks.

www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Tuesday 12th January Kilnaboy. Kilnaboy XPO will hold its first heritage talk with local artist Deirdre O'Mahony on 'Artists and the Burren'. Admission free and all are welcome.

Sunday 17th January Doolin Loop Walk, Duration:4hrs. Meet: Russell Centre 10.30
Leader: John Sharry 087 2750315. Visitors welcome but must pay €10 on the day. No Dogs allowed. Please bring a snack and drinks. www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Thursday 21st January Venue tbc. Burrenbeo Trust Talk with Brian Mooney *Identifying with the Burren - Winterages and a quest for a Burren core image*. 8.30pm. Everyone welcome. Free for members and a €5 charge for non-members. For more information please call the Trust on 087 9689486 or email trust@burrenbeo.com

Sunday 24th January Mooneen to Muckinish. Duration: 3.5hrs. All off road. Meet: Ballyvaughan Pier 10.30. Leader: B. Mcnamee, 087 6290532. Visitors welcome but must pay €10 on the day. No Dogs. Bring a snack & drinks. www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Monday 25th January Ennistymon. North Clare Historical Society's Lecture. Archaeologist Dr Marion Dowd "*Recent Archaeological Discoveries at Glencurran Cave (Carran)*". This fascinating talk will take place at 8.00 pm in the Courthouse Gallery.

Friday 29th January Enistymon. 'Step into the West' - a set dancing weekend at the Falls Hotel. For more information contact Sean @ 087 2484077.

Sunday 31st January Corkscrew Hill Loop Walk,Duration:4hrs Meet: Picnic Area Corkscrew Hill,10.30. Leader: Eileen Queally 085 7814391. Visitors welcome but must pay €10 on the day. No Dogs allowed. Bring a snack and drinks. www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com

Sunday 7th February Carron Burrenbeo Trust February Walk with Bill McInerney 'The story of a famine road' 2pm at the Poulaphuca Famine Road. Directions available on request. Free for members and a €5 charge for non-members. trust@burrenbeo.com

Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

Trust's Monthly Talk Thurs. Jan 21st Venue tbc 8.30pm *Identifying with the Burren - Winterages and a quest for a Burren core image* with Brian Mooney

The main journey in life is from one without to one within. Images play a huge part in the process of this journey. In his talk, Brian Mooney will make special reference to Burren winterages which image-wise are potentially as powerful in our day and in their own way as those of pre-Christian Troy and the Christian Eucharist.

Brian Mooney has played a remarkable role in the sustenance and development of the Burren and its communities through his involvement in the Burren Centre in Kilfenora, the Burren Perfumery in Carron and the Rent-an-Irish Farm and Cottage projects. In 1995, he took early retirement to concentrate on writing. He has three books to his name: *Vistas*, *Island Awakening* and *Between the Tides*, with the fourth *Image and Lightness* in preparation.

The Burrenbeo Trust wish to thank archaeologist Dr Michelle Comber from NUI Galway for her talk in December on '*Ringfort landscapes - living in the Burren in the 1st millennium AD*'.

Cafébeo, Kinvara. Cafébeo is now closed until the 17th February. However, the Trust will be busy with our 2009 work programme so if you wish to speak to Brigid at the Burrenbeo Trust either please email trust@burrenbeo.com or ring 087 9689486.

Need a venue? Having a meeting, a presentation, workshop or even an office party? The Burrenbeo Trust is now offering the first floor of the Burrenbeo building to rent out. Tea, snacks, lunch or finger food are also available. Powerpoint facilities available. The Burrenbeo Trust is also available for introductory talks to groups or tours on the Burren.

Reaching the Burren Diaspora www.burrenbeo.com Burrenbeo's independent information portal for the Burren. We are always happy to include info from local organisations on free or fundraising events on our website and newsletter - just send to trust@burrenbeo.com

Join the Burrenbeo Trust!

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**



The Burrenbeo Trust team would like wish all our members, patrons, volunteers and friends a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010