

**Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter January 2011 (No. 49)**

*A message from the editors*

As we embark on another year of work here at Burrenbeo Trust, there is so much to be positive about. For a start, we are privileged to be based here in Ireland's most wonderful and inspiring landscape, a place steeped in heritage, culture and great beauty. Our 'family' of supporters continues to grow in number and in geographical spread, each new member adding their energy and ideas to our common goal of promoting and protecting the Burren. Our impact and influence is also growing, and we are making strong, steady progress in our mission to ensure a brighter future for this special place.

This year for example, Burrenbeo Trust will be working with local partners on the development of a Charter for the Burren. We will be sharing our love and knowledge of the Burren with local children through Eco Beo and with many others through our monthly walks and talks. Our volunteers will be actively working to improve the condition of the Burren's monuments and habitats. Burrenbeo will continue to provide information to tens of thousands of people through our resource centre, website, e-newsletter and guides. We will provide employment directly at our centre and indirectly by promoting and utilising the services and products of the many wonderful local businesses we have here in the Burren. Burrenbeo will continue to promote the Burren as the ultimate destination to visit for the ethical, interested traveller.

At Burrenbeo, we really believe in what we do and we will endeavour to accomplish all of these tasks with a shoestring budget and with your support. We feel that our role is more crucial than ever in light of the decimation of funding for the heritage sector (60% average reduction) announced in the recent budget. More than ever our heritage and landscape needs our support - without them our lives, our communities and our economy will be greatly depleted. Even in the 'good' times, Ireland struggled to meet its legal and moral obligations to protect our heritage: in these straitened times the challenge will be even greater. We believe that the Burren - and the Burrenbeo Trust - can be a leading light nationally in demonstrating how to afford our countryside and its rich heritage the respect it deserves.

So let's look forward to the year ahead with renewed optimism - help us to make 2011 the best year yet!



## Burren News

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### **Council seeks Geopark status for The Burren and Cliffs of Moher**

Clare County Council has submitted an application to the European Geoparks Network for the European and Global Geoparks status for the Burren and Cliffs of Moher region of north Clare. The European Geoparks Network (EGN) was founded in 2000 to help protect geodiversity, to promote geological heritage among citizens, and to support the sustainable economic development of regions through the development of geotourism. The network currently consists of 37 territories on 15 European countries, two of which are in Ireland - the Copper Coast Geopark in Waterford, and the Marble Arch Cave Geopark in Cavan and Fermanagh.

If successful, the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark project will provide the region with an identity as a region for sustainable ecotourism that is recognised across Europe. European Geopark status is a fundamentally non-legislative designation, and as such it holds no influence on planning issues or land management practices. The proposed European Geopark in north Clare will comprise of a network of managed publicly accessible sites, an established network of education and visitor centres, and the newly accredited Burren Ecotourism Network, as well as the existing Shannon Region Trails and National Walking routes. The process for application takes one year. To view copy of the Geopark Application or comment on this issue, please visit [www.burrenconnect.ie](http://www.burrenconnect.ie)

### **Farewell Sarah, Burren Guardian, and thanks for the last 23 years**

"This, our Burren, is beautiful beyond compare," I said aloud. Now, dear readers, this is my last diary for you. Thank you for your letters and loyalty over the years (since 1987!). I wish you and my fellow diarists all that is good. And I thank the Guardian for taking me on all those years ago."

Thus did Ballyvaughan-based Burren treasure Sarah Poyntz sign off on her last column for the Guardian newspaper. [www.guardian.co.uk/environment](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment). We wish Sarah a happy retirement.

### **Charity Walk**

Sunday February 13, 2011 is the date for the 10<sup>th</sup> staging of the annual Alzheimer's Society of Ireland walk in Fanore. The walk will start and finish as usual from O'Donohue's Pub in Fanore where there will be refreshments and entertainment throughout the day. More than 980 people suffer from Alzheimer's in Co. Clare at present so please support this worthy cause.



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

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**Wed, 5<sup>th</sup> January. Lahinch.** The Burren Sub Aqua Club have an open night in Shamrock Hotel at 8pm with a try-a-dive in the Lahinch pool afterwards. Open to everyone over 16. For more information contact Tadhg on 086 8180044 or [burrensac@gmail.com](mailto:burrensac@gmail.com)

**Sat, 8<sup>th</sup> January. Doolin.** Archaeologist, Christine Grant will be leading the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers to clear up around the Doolin court tomb. [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096.

**Sun, 9<sup>th</sup> January. Lahinch.** Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group will meet at O'Connors Pub at 10.30 to get a bus and then walk from Lahinch to Doolin. To book the bus, contact John Sharry on 087 2750315.

**Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> January. Toonagh.** Walk in aid of *Seeking Vision - Clare Branch - Sunset Foundation*. Begins at 12.30pm sharp, start and finish at Toonagh Hall. Walks to suit all levels of fitness 2.mls, 3.mls or 6.mls. Refreshments served after walk. Entry €10. Information Breda 0851947763 or 0656837380

**Wed, 19<sup>th</sup> January. Kinvara.** Maggie Ronayne, an archaeologist will be carrying out the Burrenbeo Trust January talk *Lios An Ru and 19th Century Tenant Villages Around Ballyvaughan*. Burrenbeo Trust building, 8.30pm. All welcome, free for members and €5 for non-members. [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096.

**Sun, 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Turlough.** Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group will meet at Gleann Ciosog (football pitch between Carron and Bellharbour) at 9.30am to walk the Miner's Way. Info at 087 6290532.

## Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

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**Trust Roadshow** The Burrenbeo Trust is due to host a series of events across the Burren in February showcasing what we do and how it can benefit you and your business. The dates and locations are to be confirmed however, do pop a note in your diary for the second week of February to come.

**Trust's Monthly Talk** is with Maggie Ronayne, an archaeologist from NUI Galway, it will be at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Main St, Kinvara on the 19<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30pm Note that due to her work commitments the talk will be a Wednesday not a Thursday as usual. This talk will be at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Main St, Kinvara. This is free for Trust members and €5 for non members. For more information contact [trust@burren.com](mailto:trust@burren.com) or 091 638096. The Trust is grateful to Rory O'Shaughnessy for his passionate talk about *Stonewalls and stonewalling in the Burren and South Galway* in December.

**Trust's Monthly Walk** This month's walk was with Burren enthusiasts, Richard and Linda Morrison on walking the Blue loop walk around Mullaghmore. The Trust is grateful to Harry Jeuken for leading a wonderful walk in December on his farm.

**Burrenbeo Trust Volunteers** The next volunteer action day is the 8<sup>th</sup> January clearing up the scrub around the Doolin Court Tomb. For more information on the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers action days, contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096.

**Burrenbeo Trust building** Cafébeo is now closed until mid-March, however, the Burrenbeo Trust team are still large at work from Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm. If you wish to speak to a member of the team either knock on the door or call 091 638096.

This is the fifth consecutive year of our e-newsletter which has winged its way to over 3,000 Burren enthusiasts all over the world every month since January 2007. We wish all friends of the 'fertile rock' all the very best for 2011.

