

## Burrenbeo Trust Monthly E-Newsletter June 2009

**Burren proposed to remain on Ireland's World Heritage Site Tentative List.** A public consultation meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May in Ballyvaughan, as part of the current review of Ireland's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. Approximately thirty people attended the event hosted by the Dept of the Environment. The purpose of the information evening was to provide details on the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the Tentative List and the nomination and inscription process to local communities and their representatives. While it was clear from the meeting that the Burren was among Ireland's foremost potential sites for future nomination and that it was a landscape of 'outstanding universal value', an enormous amount of planning, consultation, time and resources would be required before such a nomination could be successfully realized.

**New publication launched: The Burren and the Aran Islands - A Walking Guide** This new book by Burren-based walking guide Tony Kirby describes some of the best walking routes in the Burren and Aran islands. Each route, prefaced with a quick-reference summary, is illustrated with a clear sketch map. Published by Collins Press, it was launched by Burren farmer Patrick McCormack to a packed audience at the Burren Centre in Kilfenora on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This 128 page book is available from [www.collinspress.com](http://www.collinspress.com) for €14.95/£11.99

**Doolin Caves** Plans to build a visitor centre at the Doolin Cave have been approved by Clare County Council. The cave - featuring the spectacular 8.3m Pol an Ionáin stalactite - was opened to the public three years ago, but the owners had felt that it was not viable without on-site facilities - visitors are currently bussed from Doolin.

**An afterLIFE in the Burren?** Minister for the Environment, John Gormley, and Minister for Agriculture, Brendan Smith, last week signed a memo of understanding in support of a five month extension for the BurrenLIFE project, based in Carron in the central Burren. Over the past 4½ years, the acclaimed 'farming for conservation' project has worked with 20 farms covering 3,000 hectares in the Burren to develop, test and refine a blueprint for the future management of the Burren. The project currently employs five core staff and a number of part-time staff.

**O'Brien's Tower restored** The iconic O'Brien's tower building standing near the highest point of the Cliffs of Moher, has recently undergone extensive restoration work and will be reopened to the public on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Burren beaches in good condition** Good news for Burren bathers now that summer has arrived. According to a recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency titled 'The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland 2008', the bathing water at beaches in the Burren including Bishopsquarter, Fanore and Lahinch is in full compliance with strict EU guidelines and is classed as being of good quality. Lahinch received a further boost recently when the country's largest lifeguard centre was officially opened, replacing the temporary huts at the surfers hotspot.



## Burren Events in June

**Ballyvaughan.** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 9.00pm. Hylands Burren Hotel St John the Baptist Church Maintenance Fundraising Night. Music, Oysters and Guinness at Euro 2.50 per pint and 'The Grand Raffle' by Fr. Des.

**Kinvara** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. The Burrenbeo Trust monthly walk led by ornithologist, John Murphy. Theme: Coastal birds. Meeting point: Burrenbeo, Main st, Kinvara at 13.45 to carpool. Booking on [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**New Quay** to June 21<sup>st</sup> "LIFE, LOVE, LOSS & REMEMBRANCE" - an exhibition of new paintings by Musa Engelbrecht at the Russell Gallery, New Quay. A stunning collection of oils and acrylics capturing particular moments of Musa's life over the last year. 065 7078185 or [www.russellgallery.net](http://www.russellgallery.net)

**Ballyvaughan** to June 12<sup>th</sup> A new exhibition by Kilnaboy based artist Deirdre O'Mahony at the Burren College of Art Gallery. Opening Hours: Monday -Friday: 1030 - 1700. Saturday-Sunday: 1200 - 1700.

**Kinvara** Every Wednesday all summer. Free guided walks in the Burren for Trust members and €5 for non-members. General intro to the flora, fauna of the Burren. Begins 10<sup>th</sup> June. Booking on [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

### Farmers Markets in the Burren every weekend this summer

**Kinvara Farmer's Market** takes place every Friday between 10am and 2pm in Johnston's Garden, behind the Hostel, Main Street, Kinvara. Contact Rosaleen at 0872835425 or [rosaleens@eircom.net](mailto:rosaleens@eircom.net)

**Ballyvaughan Farmers' Market** is at St John's Hall Car Park, opposite the Garda Station every Saturday from 10am till 2pm. Contact Tracey on 087 2911092 or [ballyvaughanfarmersmarket@eircom.net](mailto:ballyvaughanfarmersmarket@eircom.net). **Doolin Saturday Market and Craft Fair** takes place at the Russell Brothers Community Centre, Doolin. Contact [doolinmarket@gmail.com](mailto:doolinmarket@gmail.com).

**BurrenLIFE Programme of Heritage Talks** The BurrenLIFE project will be hosting a series of free public lectures at the Burren Centre Kilfenora this June. The talks will take place on Tuesday evenings at 8.30pm beginning on Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> with archaeologist Peter Harbison. Other speakers will include John Murphy, Andy Bleasdale, Gordon D'Arcy, Brendan Dunford and Burren conservation farmer Harry Jeuken. Free admission. To find out more details and to reserve your place call 065-7089000 or mail [info@burrenlife.com](mailto:info@burrenlife.com)

**Burren Cycling Club - Tour De Burren Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>** Take your pick of the 10 km Aillwee Cave Family Loop (starting from the Sea Front in Ballyvaughan at 12:30pm), the 60 Km Corkscrew Challenge (starting from the Sea Front in Ballyvaughan at 11am) or the 160 km 'Burnin Burren' (starting at the Sea Front in Ballyvaughan at 9.30am sharp). Sponsored by An Post, closing date for Registrations is June 12<sup>th</sup>. Online registration (which costs 30 Euro) for both the 60Km and 160Km events can be done at <http://www.burrencyclingclub.com/>

### Burren feral goats in the news

A recent article in Heritage Outlook by British based goat expert Raymond Werner describes his encounters with goat herds in the Burren and the presence of endangered species of old Irish goat among them. See [www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user\\_upload/heritageoutlook/outlook\\_summer\\_autumn09.pdf](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/heritageoutlook/outlook_summer_autumn09.pdf)



Feral goats high in the Burren overlooking Galway bay.

## Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates:

**This Month's Walk:** The next Burrenbeo Trust monthly walk will take place on **Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>** with bird expert, John Murphy exploring *Coastal birds*. The walk will be held 4kms west of Kinvara at Inishroo at 2pm but please meet at the Burrenbeo Office, Main St, Kinvara at 1.45 to carpool and be shown the way. For more information on this event, please contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096. The **May walk** was led by butterfly expert and enthusiast, Jesmond Harding, with over 60 people attending. Jesmond recently published the excellent book *Discovering Irish Butterflies and their Habitats* - now available through burrenbeo.

**Monthly Talk:** Burrenbeo in conjunction with Burren in Bloom were delighted to have botanical artist Susan Sex taking the audience through the wondrous world of her illustrations. Susan's inspiring work can be seen in her new book *Ireland's Wild Orchids* (available at Burrenbeo). The next Trust talk will be on the **18<sup>th</sup> June** at 8.30pm with archeologist and Burrenbeo Trust patron **Carleton Jones**. [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com) for more info.

**Eco-Beo:** Four schools (Ballyvaughan, Tierneevin, Lisdoonvarna and Doolin) with over 100 enthusiastic budding Burren experts are currently working on module 8 of this 10 module course. Already the children have heard from Dr. Brendan Dunford (*A Burren Introduction, Farming and Conservation*), Dr. Maria McNamara (*Geology of the Burren*) and Zena Hoctor (*Burren in Prehistory, Burren History*), Carol Gleeson (Burren Culture and Community) and Gordon d'Arcy (*Flora of the Burren*). These children will be taken out on a field trip of the Burren in June and soon after will graduate as young Burren experts in their own right.

**Free Wednesday Walks:** The Burrenbeo Trust is delighted to announce that we are offering a 2 hour guided general interest walk in the Burren every Wednesday from the 10<sup>th</sup> June-26<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone is welcome. Meet at the Burrenbeo Resource Centre, Main st, Kinvara at 3.30pm to carpool. Free for Trust members but €5 charge for non-members. For more information email: [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone: 087 9689486

**Burrenbeo Resource Centre:** The Burrenbeo resource centre and Café Beo in Kinvara are now open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am to 5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. The Resource Centre contains loads of free information on the Burren - and acts as an office base for Trust Communications officer Brigid Barry. Upstairs at Café Beo, you can get the best cup of coffee in the Burren, and the best vegetarian dishes around. Free Wi-fi, full range of books and maps of the Burren, and right now an exhibition of Burren photographs taken by David MacDonald and Brendan Dunford.

**Join us!** Join us in the Burrenbeo Trust and play your role in the protection of the Burren. Have your say in how the Burren is managed through the Trust by sending us on your opinions, or by giving us feedback on various issues. Join and your resources and support will be invested directly in local educational initiatives, information dissemination (via our resource centre, website, factsheets etc) and consultation (e.g. with Burren farm families). You can join by calling us on (091) 638096, by e-mailing us on [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com) or by visiting [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)



Searching for butterflies with expert Jesmond Harding as part of the May walk of the Burrenbeo Trust