

burrenbeo trust

open your eyes to the living burren



Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter June 2010 (No. 42)

Burrenbeo Trust – your chance to really make a difference!

The Burrenbeo Trust is an independent charitable organisation dedicated to the Burren. We receive no core funding of any sort and are instead fully reliant on member's fees, donations, occasional grant aid and on the voluntary contribution of a few core individuals who back up our two part-time staff.

For the Burrenbeo Trust to continue its important work developing its role as an authoritative voice for the Burren including education, information provision, research and advocacy, we urgently need your help. Financial donations are always greatly welcome and will be put to great use in helping to inform and educate people about the Burren. But there are other ways in which you can also help us in our work - for instance by giving of your time and your skills to help us deliver our ambitious work programme.



We are currently developing a panel of volunteers to help us in the following areas:

1. Café and resource centre assistants - bussing, cleaning up, meeting and greeting, providing info.
2. IT support - assisting us in revamping our website www.burrenbeo.com
3. Information provision - compiling and editing information for our e-newsletter, website and Magazine.
4. Educational work - leading walks, giving talks, helping to host our monthly walk and talk events.
5. Professional advice - helping us with legal and financial management issues as they arise.

If you have the relevant skills and can lend a hand, please let us know at trust@burrenbeo.com. Though we can't afford to pay anything, we will fully acknowledge your contribution and you can rest assured you will be making a very valuable contribution to protecting this magnificent and very special place.

Burren News

Burren farmers embrace conservation initiative The new Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (BFCP) has created an unprecedented level of interest among Burren farmers with over 300 farmers applying to be part of the pioneering initiative which seeks to reward farmers for their role in the production of the internationally renowned flowers and habitats of the Burren. An estimated 100 farmers will be included in the BFCP with up to €15,000 per annum being paid to participating farmers depending on how much work they do to improve facilities on their Burren lands and on how well-managed the habitats on their land are adjudged to be. Entrants to the BFCP will be selected by the Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) and will be based on factors such as extent of Burren habitat and number of listed monuments. The BFCP is jointly funded by the DAFF and the Dept of the Environment. www.burrenlife.com



Farmers markets in the Burren in 2010 – great markets, plenty of choice

Kinvara farmer's market takes place Fridays from 10am - 2pm behind ohnstons hall.

Ballyvaughan farmers market takes place on Saturday mornings outside St. John's Hall.

Doolin farmers market reopens Saturday 5th June 10-4. doolinmarket@hotmail.com

Immerse yourself - New Burren Heritage Course announced

The Burrenbeo Trust are delighted to announce a multi-disciplinary Burren Heritage Education Course which will take place between the 17th and 18th July 2010. The course will cover the geology, archaeology, history, culture, flora, fauna and farming traditions of the Burren. Course tutors will include Dr David Drew, Dr Marion Dowd, Dr Sharon Parr, Eugene Lambe, Gordon D'Arcy and Dr Brendan Dunford. This course will be at an introductory level, will be very interactive and will feature classroom sessions as well as field-based work. Targeted at adults who want to gain an insight into the Burren's extraordinary heritage and meet fellow Burren enthusiasts, the course is open to all but places are strictly limited. A weekend course fee which includes lunches and learner packs will apply. There will be a 10% discount for Burrenbeo Trust members. The course will be based at the Michael Cusack Centre in Carron. To register, please contact Brigid on trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 091 638096 for more information. This event is supported by the Heritage Council's Education Community and Outreach Grants Programme 2010.

Rare beetle found in new Burren locations *Octhebius nilssoni*, a tiny water beetle, has been found in a couple of new locations in the Burren by a team of international scientists from the 'Balfour Browne' club. The only other known location for the 1.5mm long beetle is a lake in northern Sweden. A team of coleopterists led by Stephen McCormack, and including the discoverer of the species Prof Anders Nilsson located the beetle at Lough Bunny, adding to the records of British scientist, Prof Garth Foster who found the beetle in 2006 in two Burren lakes in the Burren - Lough Gealáin and Lough Briskeen. *Octhebius nilssoni* doesn't swim and needs cold, clear, well-oxygenated water in limestone lakes to survive and is classed as being very vulnerable to the threat of extinction.

Retired anthropologist to donate valuable archive



Robert Cresswell (88), a retired professor from the Sorbonne in Paris, has donated his archive of photographs, slides and film to the Irish nation. Robert Cresswell lived for a year in Kinvara, Co Galway, while conducting his anthropological studies during the mid-1950s. In 1969, based on his research, the Institut d'Ethnologie (Paris) published his book, *Une communauté rurale de l'Irlande* (A rural community in Ireland). His work is the only major anthropological study from County Galway that became

internationally renowned and is still widely read and respected to this day. Cresswell took some 450 black and white photographs in Kinvara including landscapes, fields of newly-mown hay, stooks, haystacks, haymaking; ploughing, sheep shearing, blacksmith's work and much more. Caoilte Breatnach of Kinvara co-ordinated this project on behalf of the local community. www.kinvara.com for more info.



Websites to check out:

Burren Floods and Freeze Check out www.kinvara.com to see a stunning collection of images of the Burren's recent weather extremes by well-known photographer Thomas Quinn. Also featuring images of 1960s in the north Burren from anthropologist Robert Cresswell (above).

Turlough movie Time lapse movie of the tidal effect in Caherglassaun Lough near Boole, put together by Galway-based photographer John Smyth. www.vimeo.com/11785456

New Irish ~U.S. Land Use & Leadership Network Website www.irishuslandusenetwork.org is the result of collaboration between peers on both sides of the Atlantic over several years.

An Post Tour de Burren, 19th June 2010

Sean Kelly and Ian Dempsey will be among those participating in the second outing of this popular leisure cycle in North Clare. Three routes will cater for all abilities. The 10km Aillwee Cave Family Spin is the ideal route for the family. The 10km Aillwee Cave Family Spin is the ideal route for the family. If you fancy something a bit more challenging, there is the 60km 'Corkscrew Challenge'. For the more adventurous, the Burnin' Burren is a diverse 160km spin that takes in several climbs and the towns and villages of North Clare. All proceeds from the cycle will go to local charities and there is an optional BBQ afterward in Monks Bar. Closing date for applications is Friday 11th June. www.burrencyclingclub.com



Weekly walks in the Burren

The Burrenbeo Trust will soon recommence its popular weekly *Introduction to the Burren* walks for the summer. So if you have guests staying or wish to have an overview of Burren heritage, do come on a walk. The meeting spot is the Burrenbeo Trust Building, Kinvara @ 3.30pm every Wednesday throughout the summer. Children welcome, dogs on leashes only. The first walk will take place on June 9th. Walks are free for Trust members and a €5 donation from non-members. For more information on attending these walks or on organising an educational walk or talk for any visiting group, please contact Brigid on trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 091 638096.

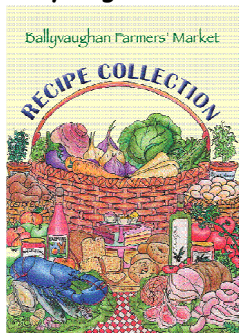
Hydroelectric Energy Storage Scheme - have your say

On Tuesday 1/6, there will be a community meeting at 8pm in the Burren Coast Hotel Conference Centre to discuss the Sea Water Pumped Hydroelectric Energy Storage Scheme being proposed by Organic Power for Gleninagh Mountain. Materials provided by Organic Power will be available to look at on the night as well as on their website www.organicpower.ie

Burren Villages Tales of History and Imagination The Burren is well known for its special landscape, its unusual flora and its wealth of archeological remains. However, the fact that the Burren also has a flourishing local community is often overlooked. A new book by Burren author Sarah Poyntz called *Burren Villages* seeks to redress this balance, looking at the people who live in the villages, both natives and people who have moved into the area. The writers take the reader on a journey through the locality in their own words, reinforcing a sense of the area's uniqueness and exploring the irresistible attraction of this landscape. Sarah Poyntz lives in Ballyvaughan, and writes a monthly column in the Guardian. *Burren Villages* will be launched at The Waterfront Restaurant, Ballyvaughan on 10th June @ 7pm. €16.99 www.mercierpress.ie

Iria - book launch Sunday 6th June will see the Launch of "Iria" at the Russell Gallery, New Quay. Written and illustrated by Jole Bortoli, "Iria" is a story for all ages, a tale about the journey of a creature that inhabits 'in-between' worlds: water and earth, west and east, the written and the oral tradition, the real and the imaginary. The launch of the book takes place at 6p.m and will be accompanied by an exhibition of the original illustrations, which will be for sale at the event. The book is hard back, with 48 pages and 30 illustrations. 500 copies of this limited edition are on sale for €45 each. The exhibition will be of 14 framed artworks. Copies of the book can be bought at the Russell Gallery or from www.arttoheart.ie

Ballyvaughan farmers market recipe collection A new book containing more than 100 tried and tested



recipes, some passed down through generations of families collected from the traders and customers of Ballyvaughan Farmers' Market, is to be launched on Thursday 3rd June at 7pm in An Fulacht Fia Restaurant. Alongside the recipes is an interesting collection of facts about trading in the area in the past, growing herbs and natural remedies. The pages are decorated with original artwork from undiscovered artists associated with the market and living in the local area as well as photographs of traders, past and present. All proceeds from the book go to a community fund to support local projects. To order your copy please visit www.ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie

Burrenbeo Trust Events Calendar for June 2010 (print and post!)

- 3rd June. Ballyvaughan.** Book Lauch - The Farmer's Market Recipe Collection. An Fulacht Fia @ 7pm.
- 6th June. Gortlecka Cross.** The Burrenbeo Trust June walk is *Butterflies in the Burren* with Jesmond Harding @2pm at Gortlecka Cross near Mullaghmore. Everyone welcome. Free for members and a €5 charge for non-members. For more information email trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 087 9689486
- 6th June. Fanore.** Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group Walk at Murrrough Mountain. Meet Fanore car park at 10.30am. For more info contact Michael Queally 086 0767776.
- 6th June New Quay.** Book Lauch - Iria by Jole Bartoli. Russell Gallery at 6pm.
- 6th June. Fanore.** Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group Fanore Loop Walk. Meet outside Donoghue's carpark at 10.30am. For more information contact Kevin McCormack 086 3272472.
- 10th June, Ballyvaughan.** Book Lauch - Burren Villages by Sarah Poyntz. Waterfront Restaurant 7pm.
- 12th June New Quay.** Painting weekend at the Russell Gallery. With professional artist and teacher Denise Hogan. From planning, preparation, drawing & painting to the finished piece, with everything in between! All levels welcome. Tel. 065-7078185
- 12th June. Kinvara.** The Burrenbeo Trust June talk is *Biodiversity in the Burren - at a snail's pace* with Maria Long at 8.30pm in the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Kinvara. Free for members, €5 for non-members. For more info email trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 087 9689486
- 12th-13th June. Ballyvaughan.** The Aillwee Caves are holding an open day with many of their activities free including cave tours, entry into the Bird of Prey centre etc. www.aillweecave.ie
- 13th June. Ballyvaughan.** Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group - Ballyvaughan Loop Walk. Meet outside Spar shop at 10.30am. For more information contact Kevin McCormack 086 3272472.
- 17th June. Kinvara.** The Burrenbeo Trust June talk is *Biodiversity in the Burren - at a snail's pace* with Maria Dowd at 8.30pm in the Burrenbeo Trust Centre, Kinvara. Free for members and a €5 charge for non-members. E email trust@burrenbeo.com or phone 087 9689486
- 17th - 21st June Kilfenora** Fleadh Cheoil an Chláir. Set Dancing will be held on Saturday 19th and Céilí dancing will be held on Sunday 20th June. All entries to county secretary (086 8181262) colmnestor@gmail.com. More info at http://comhaltas.ie/events/detail/clare_fleadh_2010/
- 19th June. Ballyvaughan.** The *Tour de Burren* is fun cycling event for all the family, three different available routes to choose from, from 10km to 160km. www.burrencyclingclub.com
- 27th June. Doolin.** Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group are walking from Hags Head to Doolin. Meet at O'Connor's Pub in Doolin. For more information contact 087 9308047.
- 27th June. Doolin.** Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Group are walking the Doolin Coastal Walk. Meet at O'Connor's Pub in Doolin. For more information contact John Sharry on 087 2750315.



Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

Trust's Monthly Walk This month's walk is with Jesmond Harding on *Butterflies of the Burren* on the 6th June at 2pm. Meet at Gortlecka Cross near to Mullaghmore. All welcome, free for Burrenbeo Trust members and is a €5 minimum donation for non-members. Phone 091 638096 or trust@burrenbeo.com. We are grateful to Dr Cillian Roden for leading our May walk *Searching for botanical ghosts*. **Below:** Common blue by Lisa Clancy <http://lisaclancy.yolasite.com>



Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers Thanks to those of you who helped out on the 23rd May as part of Biodiversity Day for Co. Clare. With nearly 1,000 individuals we had our work cut out for us by providing nature walks, bird spotting walks and human history walks. As it turned out to be the hottest day of the year, not only did we have great fun educating lots of adults and children on biodiversity but we all got a fine tan as well! BCVs is a LA21-funded group set up by the Trust to tackle key conservation issues around the Burren with monthly action days. Everyone welcome, though please register with trust@burrenbeo.com so that you are included in the volunteer mail outs.

Trust's Monthly Talk This month's talk *Biodiversity of the Burren* is with Maria Long of Trinity College Dublin who has conducted her doctoral research in the Burren. It will be held at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre in Kinvara at 8.30pm on June 17th. Free for Trust members, €5 minimum donation for non-members. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096. The Trust is grateful to Dr. Matthew Jebb for his enthusiasm and fascinating talk and extra walks carried out in celebration of International Biodiversity day on *Wildflowers of a Limestone Pavement*.

Ecobeo 2010 Burrenbeo Trust is currently completing its heritage programme in four Burren schools - Ruan, Northampton, Ballinderreen and Carron. So far Brendan Dunford, Brigid Barry, Ronan Hennessy, Eugene Lambe, Zena Hoctor, Gordon D'Arcy and Sarah O'Malley have carried out various elements of this heritage course with nearly 75 children. The budding experts will go on Burren field trips this month to apply their newfound knowledge before they finally graduate as 'Burren experts'.

Cafébeo, Kinvara. Cafébeo is open Tuesdays - Saturdays 10am-5pm. Please support the 100% non-profit conservation café and don't forget to ask for your 10% discount if you are a Trust member! Cafébeo would like to thank **St. Tola cheese** for supporting the work of the Trust by providing the café with free produce. 100% of the proceeds of the café go back into the work of the Trust.

With best wishes... The Burrenbeo Trust would like to congratulate Bishop Willie Walsh, Patron, on his retirement. Bishop Walsh has a strong affinity with the Burren, as related in his recent article in Burren Insight, and has been a great supporter of the work of the Burrenbeo Trust. We would like to wish him the very best in the coming years.

