

**Burrenbeo Trust Monthly e-Newsletter May 2010 (Issue No. 41)**

**Join the Burrenbeo Trust! We need your help** 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 invest directly in local educational initiatives, information dissemination and invaluable work on the sustainable future of the Burren.

**Burren News**

**Burren Energy - Controversial new proposal to be launched in Ballyvaughan**

A new energy company, Organic Power, based in Skibbereen, Co. Cork [www.organicpower.ie](http://www.organicpower.ie) are proposing a major seawater-pumped hydroelectric energy storage scheme for the Burren to be located at Gleninagh mountain close to the village of Ballyvaughan. According to a brochure circulated by the group, the proposal seeks to use surplus energy from wind generation to pump sea water to a reservoir on the summit plateau of Gleninagh Mountain. Power will then be generated by running the sea water down to sub-sea turbines to be sited off Murrough. A public meeting has been convened in Ballyvaughan May 5<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the Burren Coast Hotel by the Ballyvaughan Community Group where Maurice McCarthy of Organic Power proposes to unveil its plans. Let us know what you think of this proposal on [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**It's a species thing** Burren fans now have another resource at their disposal with a free Burren Flora list available on-line. Put together by ETI Bioinformatics and funded by NUI Galway University Foundation, the site is located at [www.species.ie/burren/index.php](http://www.species.ie/burren/index.php)

**Burren in Bloom** The Burren is back in bloom again after a long, cold winter. Thanks to members Michael Keane and Elaine O'Malley who notified us of their first sighting of gentians in Tubber and Fanore respectively on April 14<sup>th</sup> last. To celebrate the return of the Burren's colourful botanical wealth, a series of walks, talks and events will be held throughout the Burren during the month of May. Talks take place at 8.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while walks take place on Wednesdays and Sundays at 2pm. The festival was launched by the children on Ballyvaughan NS on May 4<sup>th</sup> with a wonderful exposition on the Burren by some of Burrenbeo's expanding network of young Burren experts. **Below:** false oxlip and cat's foot back in bloom.



### **Burren farmers set to gain from winterage wildflower crop**

Ministers for Agriculture and Environment have joined forces to officially launch a pioneering new conservation programme for the Burren which aims to protect the region's internationally acclaimed heritage. A first for Ireland, the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (BFCP) aims to support high environmental value farming in the Burren, building on the findings from the EC funded BurrenLIFE Project. The BFCP is open to all farmers in the Burren region in north Clare and south Galway. The 3-year, €1m per annum programme is set to provide a huge boost to conservation efforts in the Burren and to the beleaguered local economy which depends largely on agriculture and tourism.



One particularly innovative aspect of the BFCP is a proposal to pay bonus payments to farmers who maintain their species-rich grasslands in prime condition. Depending on how well an area of grassland is grazed and managed, farmers can earn bonus payments of up to 100 per hectare for their crop of orchids, gentians and other Burren flowers.

The BFCP will be managed by a local team, funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, based in Carron. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 17th May

2010. The maximum amount payable per annum is €15,000. Public meetings will take place on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (dates tbc) to inform farmers. Visit [www.burrenlife.com](http://www.burrenlife.com) for more details.

### **Lord of the Rings - the Burren Connection**

An intriguing new website [www.burrentolkienociety.ie](http://www.burrentolkienociety.ie) has been launched by Burren businessman Peter Curtin which claims that the 'imagery and imagination' for the book *The Lord of the Rings* by J RR Tolkien was inspired by the author's frequent visits to the Burren as a visiting professor to NUI Galway.



**Breckan Mooney remembered** The Burren will pay tribute this weekend (May 8<sup>th</sup>) to the much-loved Breckan Mooney who grew up in Carron with his parents Brian and Noirin at the Burren Perfumery which they founded. Breckan died tragically in Cork late last year. To commemorate his great impact over his short life, a presentation of a paper he was working on in UCC will be presented at the Cusack Centre at 1pm followed by a guided walk around Carron village.

**Burren Insight** The new edition of Burren Insight has created a lot of interest, leading to articles in the Irish Times and on RTE news. One omission in the Magazine relates to the cover article on the Burren green moth (*Calamia tridens*). On page 17 it should read *Calamia tridens* subspecies *occidentalis*. The Burren Green does occur in other parts of the world (nowhere else in Britain and Ireland) but the subspecies *occidentalis* only occurs in the Burren.



**Burren Musicians make history** Congrats to Máire O'Keeffe and her talented 4<sup>th</sup> class students from Kinvara NS who were recently the first public performers at the new World Music Centre in Limerick. A fundraising concert will take place on Sun. May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in Kinvara Community Centre. The concert is in support of Coole Music who are also doing some amazing work with young Burren musicians from their Gort base. Details from 086-3467245

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

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** Free Burren Walk. Led by Stephen Ward and Emma Glanville. Meet at 2pm at Slieve Carron Nature Reserve. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.** Kilnaboy. Special guest of the RAGAIRNE Irish Language Club this month will be writer Pádraig O' Baoill. XPO centre at 8pm. Free event. For more information contact 087 0687370.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** at 8.30pm Free Talk. Michelene Sheehy Skeffington - *Disappearing Lakes, Burren Turloughs*. Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May** at 2pm Free Walk. Led by Michelene Sheehy Skeffington - *Disappearing Lakes, Burren Turloughs*. Burren National Park. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May** 8.30pm. Free Talk. Simon Berrow - *Whales and Dolphins off the Burren*. Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May** Free Burren Walk. Led by Stephen Ward and Emma Glanville. Met at 2pm at the Burren National Park. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May** 8.30pm. Free Talk. Una Fitzpatrick - *Burren bumblebees*. Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May** at 5.15am Free Walk. Led by Gordon D'Arcy - Dawn Chorus. Meeting outside SPAR shop in Ballyvaughan. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May** Free Walk. Sharon Parr and Stephen Ward. *Flowers and Farming in the Burren*. Meeting Berneens at 2pm. 51M225027. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> May.** Doolin. Weekly Walk. Meeting at The Pier, Ballyvaughan led by Kevin McCormack (086 3272472) at 10.30am. Walk duration 3 hours [www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com](http://www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com)

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May** Free Talk by Mike Simms of the Ulster Museum - *Exploring the limestone landscapes of the Burren*. 8.30pm at the Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May** 2pm Free Walk. Led by Stephen Ward and Mike Simms (Ulster Museum) - *Exploring the limestone landscapes of the Burren*. Meet at Black Head lighthouse. Burren in Bloom.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.** Ballyvaughan. The Burrenbeo Trust May talk is being given by Dr Matthew Jebb in the Burren College of Art at 8.30pm on *Flowers of a limestone wilderness*. This is free for members and a €5 charge for non-members. Email [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096 for info.

**Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May.** Lisdoonvarna. *Burren Slow Food Festival 2010* will run at the Pavilion Hall in Lisdoonvarna. For more information go to [www.slowfoodclare.com](http://www.slowfoodclare.com)

**Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> May.** Ballyvaughan. A creative writing weekend with Paul Clements will be based in Hylands Hotel with field trips to the Burren. For more information go to [www.paulclementswriting.com](http://www.paulclementswriting.com)

**Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> May.** Coole Park. *Bio Blitz* is a family fun event to find as many species as possible over a 24-hour period. All welcome, come learn how to record plants, animals, birds etc. Begins at 5pm on 21<sup>st</sup> May, ends 5pm 22<sup>nd</sup> May in Coole Park. 091 631804 for more information.

**Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Gortlecka Cross.** Burren walk led by Dr Matthew Jebb who will take people on *A wild flower hunt*. There will be two opportunities to go on this walk, at 10.30am and at 2pm. For more information email [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096.

**Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Ballyvaughan.** The *Clare Burren Marathon Challenge 2010*. For more details go to [www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com](http://www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com) or 087 7779714/087 9847025

**Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Ennis.** Clare Biodiversity Day will be celebrated with a family day out in Lees Road, Ennis with guided walks, kids events and more. Due to start at 11am. Everyone welcome.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.** Free Walk. Vivienne Campbell. *The Burren's Medicinal herbs*. Meet at Burren College of Art Car park at 2pm Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.** 7pm Kinvara Community Centre. Fundraising concert in aid of Coole Music and Arts.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May** 7pm free walk and talk Michelle Comber - *Who lived at Caherconnell, long, long ago?* Caherconnell Fort, Ballyvaughan. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May** Free Talk. Emma Glanville (NPWS) *Ranging over the Burren*. Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, 8.30pm. Part of the Burren in Bloom festival.

## Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

**Butterfly workshop** The Burrenbeo Trust was delighted with the great turn out at the butterfly workshop on the 24<sup>th</sup> April last in the Burrenbeo Trust Centre led by Dr Eugenie O'Regan of the National Biodiversity Data Centre with help from butterfly conservationist Jesmond Harding and Dr Brian Nelson of NPWS. Over 40 individuals learned about some of the Burren species such as the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, the Brown Hairstreak and the Wood White. Not only are they rare, but the Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the Brown Hairstreak are under threat of extinction in Ireland. The aim of the workshop was to train volunteers to monitor these species and thus help inform their conservation in the future.



**Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers - not a rubbish day out at all!** Last month the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers carried out a mammoth clean up of Fanore beach and dunes as their April conservation action day. 17 individuals came out on one of the first sunny days of April and had clean up as part of National Spring Clean month. BCV is a LA21-funded group set up by the Trust to tackle key conservation issues around the Burren. Everyone welcome, though please register with [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) so you are included in the volunteer mail outs.

**Trust's Monthly Talk** This month's talk is with Dr Matthew Jebb of the National Botanical Gardens on *Flowers of a Limestone Wilderness*. The talk will be at the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan at 8.30pm. It is free to Trust members and a €5 minimum donation from non-members. For more information contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096. The Trust is grateful to Dr. Ronán Hennessy for his information talk on *New Perspectives on Old Stones*.

**Trust's Monthly Walk** Our monthly walk for June will be with Jesmond Harding. For more information please email [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096. We are grateful to Dr. Cillian Roden for leading the May walk on *Searching for Botanical Ghosts*.

**Ecobeo 2010** Burrenbeo Trust is currently running its heritage programme in four Burren schools this summer term; Ruan, Northampton, Ballinderreen and Carron. So far, Brendan Dunford, Brigid Barry, Ronan Hennessy and Eugene Lambe have carried out various elements of this heritage course with nearly 75 children. The objective of this course is to encourage a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility in the Burren among its future guardians.



**Cafébeo, Kinvara.** Cafébeo is open Tuesdays - Saturdays 10am-5pm, and Sundays 11am-4pm. So do drop in, support the 100% non-profit conservation café and don't forget to ask for your 10% discount if you are a Trust member!

**Burren Insight Issue 2** Get your copy of the Burren's only dedicated publication. Full colour, 56 pages, sure to be a collector's item. €5 from Burrenbeo or local outlets. Also, the Burrenbeo Trust is available for talks and guided walks for groups coming to the Burren. For more information please contact

Brigid on [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096.