Burrenbeo Trust Monthly E-Newsletter November 2009 (No. 35)

Burren News

Burren listed in New Programme for Government The recently reviewed programme for Government contains some interesting commitments: 'In consultation with local communities, we will actively promote new sites for acceptance onto the UNESCO World Heritage List, including Clonmacnoise, Tara, the Burren and Georgian Dublin.' The Burren has been on Ireland's tentative list of World Heritage Sites since 1992 and a committee recently set up to review Ireland's Tentative list has yet to make its findings public. Environment Minister John Gormley had previously made clear his intention to see the Burren nominated for World Heritage Site status within the lifetime of this Government.

The BurrenLIFE project is featured in the current edition of the esteemed British Wildlife Magazine (www.britishwildlife.com). The article, titled 'Farming for the future of the fertile rock' provides an overview of the work of the Carron-based farming for conservation project which is currently approaching the end of its EC funded 5-year pilot research phase. The project is also being profiled in the upcoming National REPS Conference. It is hoped to roll-out the scheme across the Burren in 2010.

Mini Dolmens in the News The on-going issue of mini dolmens being built in the Burren hit the headlines again recently. The practice, which involves people constructing their own mini-stone edifices using Burren limestone, has become increasingly common across the area recently. See Irish Times Article www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1001/1224255613799.html for a recent attempt to address this. We would love to know what you think of this practice and what might be done about it.

Conservation Coffee & Art in Kinvara
Café beo in Kinvara is well known for serving the best cup of coffee in the Burren as well as delicious soup, sandwiches and cake, locally sourced where possible. But this Café also serves up free information on the Burren and what's more, all profits generated from the Café are ploughed back into conservation initiatives run by the Burrenbeo Trust including education in local schools. Also, Burrenbeo Trust members get a 10% discount in the café. Upstairs from the Café is the Burrenbeo Resource centre and terrace garden (and graveyard!) with loads of info on the Burren. The space also doubles as an art gallery. The Trust gallery supports Burren artists and the artwork changes every month. The November Artist is Burren local Patsy Connolly. Her work is 'abstract expressionistic' which is inspired by Patsy's deep connection with nature. She studied photography in Waterford Institute of Technology, painted with artist Rita Wobbe, and carried out summer programmes in the Burren College of Art. In addition to painting, she does photography and life drawings. Also on display are some works from photographer David MacDonald who has mounted some of his stunning Burren photos. The Burrenbeo building is open Wed. to Sat. 10.30am -4.30pm. Check it out and spread the word about this Café with a conscience.
A Burren Celebration
‘A Burren Miscellany’ is a special evening organised by Burrenbeo to showcase and celebrate the often-overlooked but rich culture of the Burren with some outstanding local talents. The line-up will include poetry, song, folklore, reminiscences and a surprise guest. Come along and join us, bring a story or a song if you have one. Doors open at 8.30pm, €10 per person. Venue: Johnston’s Hall, Kinvara. (R) Piper Eugene Lambe at Burrenbeo

Coole things to do Coole Park, near Gort has just launched its winter programme of Cultural, Arts and Heritage events, aiming to showcase locally based artists and lecturers. Admission is free to the events. Programme is now available from Coole Park. Also online at www.burrenbeo.com

Get your chequebook out! A 1,550-acre farm owned by the late Michael Fitzpatrick, which fronts onto the main road between Ballyvaughan and Doolin, is going for auction this week. A wonderful farm, it carried a herd of 150 suckler cows in the past. It will be sold in five lots, one of which includes the farmhouse on one acre. The farm is about 41 miles from Galway city, with stunning views over Galway Bay and the Aran Islands. It is intersected by a ‘Green Road’. The auction, through agent John Vaughan www.johnvaughan.ie is on Friday, Oct. 30th at 3pm in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon.

The Burren Sub Aqua Club is hosting an open night at the Shamrock Inn, Lahinch on Monday Dec 7th at 8 pm, with a try-a-dive in the Lahinch pool afterwards. Scuba diving is open to anyone 16 or over who can swim. The Burren Sub Aqua Club provides training from novice through to diving instructor. Members will be available to answer all questions and the evening is free of charge. Winter training begins at Lahinch pool January 11th, 2010. Contact 086 8180044 or email burrensac@gmail.com

Congratulations to ...
Ballyvaughan Farmers’ Market singled out as one of the best farmers’ markets in Ireland at the annual Bord Bia Good Practice Standard Awards.
Kinvara Farmers Market who conclude their successful first season this Friday (Oct 31st).
Michael Davoren of Burren IFA who excelled in presenting a Case Study from the Burren at the recent National Landscape Conference organised by the Heritage Council (www.heritagecouncil.ie).
Gregan’s Castle Country House of the Year winners at the recent Georgina Campbell Awards.
Carron and Kilshanny National Schools who were granted ICT funding to equip their new classrooms with information and communications technology.

Suckler cows on the Burren The Burren hills are alive these times with herds of cattle grazing on the herb-rich limestone grasslands. It’s also a great time to see herds of rutting feral goats.
Burrenbeo Events Calendar for November 2009 (print and post!)

Sat 31st October, Kinvara. The Burrenbeo Trust hosts A Burren Miscellany - An evening to celebrate the rich culture of the Burren. Folklore, music, and poems in Johnston's Hall, Kinvara. All welcome. €10 per person. 8.30pm. www.burrenbeo.com

Sat 31st October, Kilfenora. A spooky barn dance is being held in aid of the Clare Crusaders in Vaughan's Barn, Kilfenora. Fancy dress - and prize for best costume. Tickets at 087 1346443.

Sun 1st November, Mullaghmore. The Burrenbeo Trust monthly walk presents Exploring Turloughs with Dr James Moran at 2pm. Meet at Gortlecka Cross. Free to members and €5 charge to non-members. For more information/directions email trust@burrenbeo.com or call 091 638096.

Sun 1st November, Lisdoonvarna. A children's fancy dress party will be held at the Lisdoonvarna Pavilion Theatre between 2-4pm. With games, DJs, cakes for parents. €5 per person or €15 for a family. Proceeds go to the Cois Ceim Childcare Centre. Everyone welcome.

Wed 4th November, Ennis. The BurrenLIFE presents Farming for Conservation - Using the resource base - Lessons from the field with Burren farmers Jim Nagle and Christy Roche, and Ruairí Ó Conchúir from BurrenLIFE. Templegate Hotel, Ennis, 8pm. www.burrenlife.com Free.

Fri 6th November, Ballyvaughan. The Burren College of Art is having an open day for artists that wish to pursue a postgraduate degree. Further information at www.burrencollege.ie

Sat 7th November, Ballyvaughan. The First Annual Raptor Conservation Seminar, hosted by the Burren Bird of Prey Centre at Aillwee Cave, Ballyvaughan 10am to 4pm. Speakers will include Dr Marc Ruddock and Dr Richard Cuthbert. This event is free of charge. www.aillweecave.ie

Sun 8th November, Fanore. A charity walk in aid of Building of Hope Project will meet at the shore in Fanore at 12.30pm. Contact Bernie on 087 2738817. €10 per person.

Tuesday 10th November Kilnaboy. XPO's November heritage talk will feature guest speaker herbalist Vivienne Campbell. The title of the talk is Common Herbal Remedies. Admission to the talk is free of charge and all are welcome. 8pm at XPO Kilnaboy. 087 2925487 for more info.

Wed 11th November, Ennis. The BurrenLIFE presents Climate Change & It's Likely Impact On The West of Ireland with Prof. John Sweeney of NUI Galway. Templegate Hotel, Ennis, 8pm. For more information look up www.burrenlife.com This fascinating talk is free and open to everyone.

Wed 18th November, Ennis. The BurrenLIFE presents What Lies Beneath Clare's Deep Blue with Dr Simon Berrow of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. This will be held at Templegate Hotel, Ennis. www.burrenlife.com This talk is free and open to everyone.

Until 21st November, Ennistymon. The Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon is hosting Clare artist Judy O'Sullivan from the 31st Oct-21st November.


Fri-Sat November 27th - 28th Ennistymon Clare Tourist Council’s Annual Tourism Conference takes place at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon. Opened by former Taoisach, Deputy Bertie Ahern, this year’s theme is Promoting Partnership in Tourism. Tel 065-7071149 or cahilka@indigo.ie

Monday 30th November Ennistymon North Clare Historical Society Lecture. Paul Gosling will give a talk entitled “Desktop Survey/Using Your Head on the Web - Studying Carran Church, County Clare” 8.00 pm in the Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon. 087 292 54 87 for more info.
Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

**Trust’s Monthly Walk:** This month’s walk will be led by Dr James Moran and is titled ‘Exploring Turloughs’. James is a lecturer in Ecology and Biology in the Institute of Technology, Sligo and a former member of the BurrenLIFE project team. Meet at Gortlecka Cross in the Burren National Park at 2pm on Sunday Nov. 1st. Please bring warm clothes and sturdy boots/wellingtons in case it is wet underfoot. More info on trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096. We are very grateful to Dr David Drew for carrying out two walks at the Aillwee Caves for our October Trust walk (left) and to Aillwee caves for allowing free entry to the caves for this Natl. Trails Day event.

**Trust’s Monthly Talk:** This month’s talk will be by well-known Burren photographer Nutan. As part of the evening Nutan will screen a beautiful and very moving presentation dedicated to the late John O’Donoghue, comprised of images of the Burren set to music. This show will take place at the Burrenbeo Centre in Kinvara on Thurs. Nov 19th. We are grateful to Deirdre O’Mahony for her fascinating talk regarding her work as an artist in the Burren for our October Trust talk.

**Need a venue?** Having a meeting, a presentation, workshop or 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. For more info: trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

**Available to give Burren talks.** Do you have a group of people that wish to know more about the Burren? The Burrenbeo Trust is now available to give talks to groups or tours on the Burren. We have an half an hour presentation that is an ideal introduction to the Burren plus you can have a nice cup of tea and some homemade cake. trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

**Information for Burren Businesses.** Do you have a business in the Burren and would like more information on what the Burren is about? If so, we can organise an information session for you and your staff on the geology, archaeology, flora, fauna, culture and conservation of the Burren. By being more informed, you could become a champion of the Burren and maximise how you promote your region. For more information contact trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

**Why not volunteer?** The Burrenbeo Trust are currently compiling a list of people that would be interested in volunteering for the Burrenbeo Trust. If you would like to register your interest please email trust@burrenbeo.com and we will let you know of upcoming events and give you a job! Thanks to our October volunteers. The Burrenbeo Trust would like to give a special thanks to the volunteers that helped out this month with the Trust activities - Eileen Hutton, Richard and Linda Morrison. The Trust is grateful their time selflessly given in helping us out with the work that we do.

**Reaching the Burren Diaspora** [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com) Burrenbeo's independent information portal for the Burren, had 860 unique visitors per day to its website in October 2009, a whopping 92% year on year increase. We are always happy to include info from local organisations on free or fundraising events on our website and newsletter if you wish to send them 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. Join now: 091-638096 / trust@burrenbeo.com

The Burrenbeo Trust is looking for funds to continue its work programme - we appeal to all of you to become members and support our work.

A gift that gives back!

This Christmas why not give a gift that supports a local charity and gives something back. Starting at €30, give an annual Burrenbeo Trust membership to your friends and family and make a real difference to one of Ireland’s most special places.

Your gift will offer the recipient:

- A 10% discount for all food and drink at Cafébeo in Kinvara
- Free Entry to the Trust’s monthly walks and talks programme
- Free Burren Insight magazine
- A CD ROM with beautiful Burren images and a video about the area
- unique Cards with Burren images to send to friends

A membership is valid for 12 months.

Plus.....

This gift has a real feel-good factor - you will be supporting the work of the Burrenbeo Trust. By giving this gift you are playing a part in the providing heritage education in local schools, providing information through our resource centre, website, booklets, talks to locals and visitors, and supporting research so that the Burren can be sustainably managed in the future. For more information contact trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096

We need your support so why not give a gift that matters this Christmas!