

## Burrenbeo Trust Monthly E-Newsletter Sept. 2009 (No.33)

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**BurrenLIFE extended** BurrenLIFE, the farming for conservation project based in Carron village, has been successful in securing an extension from the European Commission. The pilot project, scheduled to conclude on August 31<sup>st</sup> will now finish on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. The pioneering work of the project received a huge boost recently when it was allocated €1m per annum for the next three years by the Dept of Agriculture. This is expected to result in a new farming for conservation programme for the Burren beginning in 2010, once the pilot phase of the project has been completed. [www.burrenlife.com](http://www.burrenlife.com)

**View Caherconnell Stone Fort through your phone.** Visitors can now download an interactive visitors' tour of the Caherconnell Stone Fort before visiting the fort or they can access this tour through Bluetooth when they arrive at the site. Launched this month, the guide contains an interactive map - clicking on one of the 11 places of interest on the tour launches text about that location, a photo and an audio commentary. The information can be updated and changed. The application remains on the phone long after tourists have left, and it includes a "send to friend" feature. John Davoren, owner of the Caherconnell site, said this could be a useful virtual marketing tool. The file is 800kb in size and can take up to 15 seconds to download. [www.burrenforts.ie](http://www.burrenforts.ie)

**Limestone pavement report** - for those interested in this precious resource, a new report on methodologies to assess the conservation status of limestone pavement and associated habitats in Ireland can be found at [www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/IrishWildlifeManuals/](http://www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/IrishWildlifeManuals/)

**What's cookin'?** Gregan's castle chef, Mickael Vinlajeu has been shorted-listed as one of Ireland's top chefs *Food and Wine Magazine's* Veuve Clicquot Best Chef Award for 2009. Gregan's has also been nominated in the Munster category of best place to eat along with Linnane's Lobster Bar in New Quay.

**Award-winning biodiversity garden.** Scoil Mhainchín National School in Enistymon is one of eight finalists in the national Corrin Hill Biodiversity Garden Awards. Parents and children alike joined together in building this garden last spring. The winner will be announced mid-September.

**www.burrenbeo.com** Burrenbeo's independent information portal for the Burren had 787 unique visitors per day to its website in August 2009, a 48% year on year increase. Spread the word!



*Autumn in the Burren - Spindle berries and Belted Galloway cattle at the Burren National Park*

## Special Feature: Walking in the Burren – come and be a part of it



Recent months have seen major developments in the provision of new walking routes and associated structures and services in the Burren. Supplementing the existing network of green roads and local walking guides, these new walks, festivals and organisations offer something for everyone.

**The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club** is one of Ireland's leading walking clubs which organise weekly walks within the Burren and beyond for their members as well as an annual Burren Marathon [www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com/](http://www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com/)

**The National Parks and Wildlife Service** have opened a number of walking routes in the Burren National Park, some of which scale the magnificent Mullaghmore hill affording spectacular views of the National Park, Lough Gealain and the Burren wetlands to the east. [www.burrennationalpark.ie/](http://www.burrennationalpark.ie/) for info.

**Burrenbeo Trust** organizes monthly educational walks which offer an opportunity for Burren enthusiasts of all ages to share their love of the Burren. The walks are usually led by a local farmer in conjunction with a Burren specialist – for example this month's walk features botanist Dr. Stephen Ward with Michael Keane. Talks take place on the first Sunday of every month [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com)

**A number of waymarked looped walking routes are now available for visitors:**

Ballyvaughan: [www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.8604,en.html](http://www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.8604,en.html)

Blackhead: [www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.8611,en.html](http://www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.8611,en.html)

Carron: [www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.7507,en.html](http://www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.7507,en.html)

Caher Valley: [www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.7510,en.html](http://www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/LoopWalks/TrailName.7510,en.html)

In addition to these looped walks there is the spectacular Burren Way long-distance linear walk: [www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/WaymarkedWays/TrailName.5791,en.html](http://www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/Walking/WaymarkedWays/TrailName.5791,en.html)

**Walkers Welcome** The Burren village of Ballyvaughan has joined Tinahely (Wicklow), Donegal Town, the Slieve Blooms and the Glen of Aherlow in Fáilte Ireland's 'Walkers Welcome Initiative'. Up to 20 community business and voluntary interests are already involved in the Walkers Welcome in the Burren. This initiative aims to raise the standard of service visitors can expect from their walking holiday in Ireland. To this end a "Walkers Welcome charter" has been developed to highlight the commitment from the local community and tourism providers to offer the best walking experience possible in the area by offering:

- Guaranteed regular maintenance and upkeep of local walks;
- A local walking officer offering assistance and advice;
- Walks information, including mapboards and signage,
- Local Walkers Welcome approved accommodation;
- Local amenities committed to providing walker friendly service in shops (e.g. packed lunches)

**Burren Peaks Walking Festival.** The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club have announced a weekend walking festival in the Burren this September 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The Burren Peaks Walking Festival offers guided hill and lowland walks varying in distance and grade catering for all walkers. Grade A, B and C walks will be organised for both days, including some spectacular day long hikes. This festival is made possible by the goodwill of the local landowners who have given the Ballyvaughan-Fanore Walking Club permission to cross their property for the event. More info: [www.burrenpeakswalkingfestival.com](http://www.burrenpeakswalkingfestival.com) by



phone 087 2691147 or e-mail: [info@ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com](mailto:info@ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com).

## Burren Events for September 2009

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**To 26<sup>th</sup> September New Quay** The Russell Gallery in New Quay are hosting an exhibition by Rita Wobbe entitled 'The Promised Garden' until 26<sup>th</sup> September. [www.russellgallery.net](http://www.russellgallery.net)

**Sat.5<sup>th</sup> Sept, Gort.** The ConTempo Quartet will be finishing their Galway tour at the Gort Public Library. This is a celebrated young string quartet. [www.galwayensemble.ie](http://www.galwayensemble.ie) or 091 586706.

**Sun.6<sup>th</sup> Sept, Tubber @11am.** Botanist, Dr Stephen Ward and local farmer, Michael Keane, will lead a walk entitled *Plants of Muckanagh Lough*. Free for Burrenbeo Trust members and a €5 charge for non-members. Meet at Tubber Village Hall at 11pm. Email [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096

**Mon.7<sup>th</sup> Sept, Kinvara.** Burren Yoga and Meditation Centre start a new 10-week course of yoga and pilates. Price is €110. From beginners to advanced. [www.burrenyoga.com](http://www.burrenyoga.com) or phone 091-637680.

**Fri.11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Sept, Clarinbridge.** The Annual Clarinbridge Oyster Festival will take place, celebrating the native oyster and the history of the village. There will be music and festivities, with a family day on the Sunday including children's disco, jive buddies, fancy dress and art competitions.

**Fri.11<sup>th</sup> Sept, Kinvara @8.30pm.** Bill Evans and Megan Lynch will play a mixture of fiddle and banjo at the Galway Americana Festival. Johnston's Hall at 8.30pm. €10. [www.galwayamericanafestival.com](http://www.galwayamericanafestival.com)

**Sat.12<sup>th</sup> Sept, Kinvara @8.30pm.** Mark Brown is playing at Johnston's Hall as part of the Galway Americana Festival. His style is a combination of ballads, cowboy songs, jigs, sideshow melodies, and field hollers. There is a €10 entry fee. [www.galwayamericanafestival.com](http://www.galwayamericanafestival.com) for more information.

**Thu.17<sup>th</sup> Sept, Corofin @8.30pm.** Jesmond Harding will be doing a talk on *The Butterflies of the Burren* at the Clare Heritage Centre, Corofin. Jesmond is the author of the book 'Discovering Irish Butterflies and their Habitats'. Everyone is welcome. This walk is free for Burrenbeo Trust members and a €5 charge for non-members. Email [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091 638096 for more information.

**Sat.19th-20th Sept,Lahinch.** West Coast Surf Club will host the sixth annual National Surf Longboard Competition. Weather and wave conditions permitting, it should be a good show for all. For more information, go to [www.westcoastsurfclub.com](http://www.westcoastsurfclub.com)

**Sat. 26th Sept, Ballyvaughan.** The 2009 Burren Starparty will be held at the Burren Coast Hotel in Ballyvaughan on Space Exploration, The Moon and Science Fiction in Science. There will be visiting speakers from USA and UK. This open to young and old - aimed at anyone interested in astronomy. There will be a group observation session in the Burren in the evening. Adults €15, OAP €10, College Student €10, Secondary Student €5, free for any younger. [www.shannonsideastronomyclub.com](http://www.shannonsideastronomyclub.com)

**Matchmaking in the Burren this September** Willie Daly and the other matchmakers are warming up for the end of the harvest and with it, Europe's largest matchmaking festival. Starting the 31st August and running to the 7th October, Lisdoonvarna offers live traditional music, set dancing, and exhibitions in most venues throughout the town.



**Flowering now in the Burren:** Field gentian, grass of Parnassus and harebell.

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## Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

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**Trust's Monthly Walk:** The next Burrenbeo Trust monthly walk will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 11am with Dr Stephen Ward and Michael Keane on *The plants of Muckanagh Lough*. Stephen is one of the Burren's best known botanists as well as a director of the Trust, whilst Michael and his wife Lena own and manage this stunning farm. Please wear good and comfortable walking shoes, and be prepared for every element of the Irish weather. Walks last c. 2-2.5 hours. Meet at the slightly earlier time of **11am** - due to a national GAA match later in the day! Please meet at Tubber village hall [signposted as such] off the 'new line' road at OS R 389 956 just east of the cross-roads. €5 charge for non-members. August's walk with Patrick McCormack was, in spite of the rain, truly inspiring and nicely finished off by hot tea and freshly-baked scones courtesy of Patrick's wife, Cheryl.

**Trust's Monthly Talk:** The next Burrenbeo Trust talk is with Jesmond Harding on *Butterflies of the Burren*. This will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30pm at the Clare Heritage Centre in Corofin. Those of you who attended Jesmond's walk in May will know that Jesmond, the author of 'Discovering Irish Butterflies and their Habitats', is a very engaging speaker and has a lot to teach us about the fantastic world of butterflies. [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or 091-638096 for info. €5 for non-members. We are grateful to August's speaker, Dr Marion Dowd who delivered a spellbinding lecture on her ongoing work at Glencurran Cave. The dig, which has unearthed possible evidence of bears, wolves and which yielded an extraordinary Viking necklace, was highlighted in the 'Blood of the Irish' programme recently aired on RTE. Three local children whose DNA matched that of the Bronze Age cave dwellers were in attendance at the lecture.

**October's walk.** The Trust are delighted to have geologist David Drew leading our first subterranean walk through the Aillwee caves on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. However, due to the size of the caves there are limited spaces on this walk. Book now on [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096.



**Burren Insight** Don't forget to pick up a copy of Burren Insight - the only magazine on the Burren. This attractive magazine includes features on research, book reviews, environment education, events in the Burren and much more. To order a copy please contact [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or ring 091 638096. All proceeds to the work of Burrenbeo Trust - a perfect birthday gift.

**Why not volunteer?** The Burrenbeo Trust are currently assembling a list of people that would be interested in volunteering out in the Burren for an afternoon. If you would like to register your interest please email [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) and we can let you know about our next volunteer event.

**Burrenbeo Trust Resource Centre:** The Burrenbeo resource centre and Café Beo in Kinvara are now open Wednesday - Sunday, 10.30am to 5pm. The Resource Centre contains loads of free information on the Burren - and acts as an office base for Trust Communications officer Brigid Barry.

**Join the Trust!** This e-newsletter is a free resource to friends of Burrenbeo Trust, but to become more involved in playing your role in the protection of the Burren, why not join the Burrenbeo Trust? Become a member of this non-profit charity and your resources and support will be invested directly in local educational initiatives (Ecobeo programme), information dissemination (via our resource centre, website, factsheets etc) and consultation on the sustainable future of the Burren. When you join as a member you receive an exclusive pack including an award-winning cd with hundreds of stunning Burren images, a subscription to the biannual magazine Burren Insight, Burren postcards, free entry into the Trust's monthly walks and talks amongst other things. You can join by calling 091-638096, e-mailing [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com) or on [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)