Farming the living landscape of the Burren - new DVD launched
The BurrenLIFE Project last week launched a new DVD titled 'Farming the Living Landscape of the Burren'. The launch took place at Glór in Ennis with over 300 farmers in attendance, a memorable event. The DVD tells the story of farming in the Burren and the various measures undertaken by some Burren farmers as part of the BurrenLIFE initiative. To view a 3 minute section of the DVD please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vxeF3y1ne8
Copies of DVD and the new BurrenLIFE Newsletter are available from the BurrenLIFE Project Office, Old School House, Carron, Ennis, Co. Clare, Tel. 065 708 9000, info@burrenlife.com, www.burrenlife.com.

Burren Spring Conference 2009: The Burren: Life, Language, Landscape
The Burren Spring Conference 2009 will take place at the Burren College of Art from Feb 6th - 8th next. This year's director is author and journalist Fintan O'Toole and the theme is The Burren: Life, Language, Landscape. A stellar line-up of speakers will include Michael Longley (Poems of the Burren and the West of Ireland), Marek Kohn (Climate Change and the Burren), Tim Robinson (Landscape, Memory and Amnesia), Enda Longley (Poetry, Ecology and the Burren) and Garry Hynes (Questioning the West -in conversation with Fintan O'Toole). Places are limited, so book now on 065-7077200 or e-mail brid@burrencollege.ie

Monthly Walk: The Burrenbeo Trust held the first of its planned monthly walks on St. Brigid's day, February 1st. Over 50 Burren enthusiasts braved the cold to participate in a wonderful walk on to the farm of Harry Jeuken & Maria Dortmans. Features of the walk included some new born goat kids, beautiful belted Galloway cattle, fresh spring water, and the expert tutelage of Drs Sharon Parr and Stephen Ward. The next walk will take place on Sunday March 1st and will be led by archaeologist Christine Grant. For more info. please contact info@burrenbeo.com


Burren proposed to stay on World Heritage Site Tentative List
The 32 members of Clare County Council last week voted to support a proposal to put the Burren forward for inclusion in Ireland's list of World Heritage Sites. Though the Burren has been on the list since 1992, the list itself is currently under review. In a report to the County Council, acting council senior planner John Bradley stated that the Burren "has the requisite designations and potential to meet the stringent requirements of UNESCO World Heritage status". Currently, there are only two Irish heritage sites on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List: Brú na Bóinne in Co Meath and Skellig Michael off the Co Kerry coast.
Congratulations to...

Gregans Castle Hotel has been named a 2009 Grand Award Winner by Andrew Harper in the January issue of the Hideaway Report. Andrew Harper’s Hideaway Report is a top resource for intelligence on luxury travel and is based on unbiased, first hand research. Hotels considered for the prestigious award must be relatively small and possess a strong individual personality. Only 20 international properties are chosen for the award each year, and Gregan’s is the only Irish property to make the list in 2009. The list also includes the Four Seasons Hotel in Florence.

Sleepzone - The Burren was voted 5th best hostel in Ireland at the Hostelworld Hoscars event at the Hilton, Dublin recently. The awards are based on ratings by guests, who rate each hostel in five categories - character, security, location, staff, fun and cleanliness. Over 18,000 hostels are listed on Hostelworld.com

Ministerial visit to the Burren Environment Minister John Gormley visited BurrenLIFE project offices in Carron last week and also took time to meet some of pioneering ‘farmers for conservation’ on a nearby farm. Commenting on the project, the Minister stated that it was “a win-win situation. It helps the farmers and it helps the environment.” He also stated that while his department would “not be found wanting” in ensuring the project continued, “we need a buy-in from the Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Everyone has to be involved”. www.burrenlife.com

Minister John Gormley shares a laugh with Burren farmers (l-r) Jim Nagle, Philomena Hynes, Catriona O’Dea, Patrick McCormack, Michael Collins and Gerry Flaherty.

Time to start training for ...

The Clare Burren Marathon. Sat 23rd May 2009
Organised by Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club and supported by Clare Sports Partnership. This is a road, green road and a trail challenge across the Burren. Enjoy some of Europe’s most unique landscapes and see the Burren in Bloom. Each participant has a choice of full, half or mini marathon. All three challenges start and finish in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare. No dogs are allowed. For info and entry form visit www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com/

Le 'TOUR DE BURREN' Sat 20th June 2009
The sixth annual Tour de Burren cycle race will take place on Saturday June 20th next. Last years event drew 130 cyclists. The 2009 Tour, sponsored by An Post, is expected to attract even larger numbers. Three routes are planned: a 160 km, 60 km and a 10 Km cycle. Registration will take place online and the cost of entry is €30 for both the 60 Km and 160 KM cycle. The 10 Km spin will be free of charge. More info on www.burrencyclingclub.com/

New Loop Walks in the Burren National Park
Walking in the Burren just got a whole lot better with the recent initiative by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to mark out a selection of stunning looped trails in the Burren National Park. The five colour-coded walks all vary in length and difficulty as they explore different routes on and around the beautiful Mullaghmore hill. The routes begin from the ‘Crag road’ beside Lough Gealain, a few miles north of the southern Burren villages of Kilnaboy and Corofin.
## Upcoming Events

### Cliffs of Moher
Sun Feb 1st - 15th Clare Cliffs Festival. Featuring story telling, puppet shows, traditional music, art and photography exhibitions. More info on schedules & times, contact: 065 7086141 or go to [www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie)

### Kinvara
Saturday Feb. 8th, 3 - 5 pm Book Swap to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Ireland. Bring 10 books - Donate 20 euro - Take 10 'new' books home! No children's books please. Venue: Johnston's Hall, Main Street, Kinvara. Free coffee, tea, and biscuits. Contact Robin 087-9696361.

### Corofin
Sun-Mon Feb 8th-9th at 8pm. The award winning Corofin Dramatic Society present 'Sive' by John B. Keane at Corofin Hall. Not to be missed. Contact John 087-2300860

### Doolin
Sun. Feb. 15th Ballyvaughan - Fanore Walking Club Walk. Doonagore to Ballycotton (4hrs) Flat road & shoreline walk. Leader: John Sharry 087-2750315. Meet: Garrhy's Cross Doolin at 10.30am. For more info and to join this club, visit [www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com](http://www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com)

### Ennis
Mon. Feb 16th Free Illustrated Talk. Christy Cunniffe: The Lesser Appreciated Built Heritage of the Irish Landscape. BurrenLIFE & NPWS lecture Series. Admission Free, all welcome. 8.00pm at the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis. More info at 065 708 9000, 087 292 5487, [info@burrenlife.com](mailto:info@burrenlife.com), [www.burrenlife.com](http://www.burrenlife.com)

### Gort & Crusheen
Thurs - Sun Feb 19th - 22nd The Joseph Browne Spring School of Traditional Music. Masterclasses in a range of instruments, workshops, lectures, memorial concert. Info on 087-0674335 or [www josephbrowne.org/](http://www josephbrowne.org/)

### Doolin
Fri - Mon Feb 20th - 23rd. The Russell Memorial Weekend. Featuring concerts, Music Workshops, Recitals, Set Dancing with the Four Courts Céilí Band & pub Sessions. Info: [info@micorussellweekend.ie](mailto:info@micorussellweekend.ie), 065 7074595 [www.micorussellweekend.ie](http://www.micorussellweekend.ie)

### Kilfenora

### Ennis
Mon. Feb. 23rd Free Illustrated Talk with Dr. John Feehan. Forgotten Farmers and Other Burren Titbits. BurrenLIFE & NPWS lecture Series. 8.00pm at the Old Ground Hotel. BurrenLIFE & NPWS lecture Series. Admission Free, all welcome. More info at 065 708 9000, 087 292 5487, [info@burrenlife.com](mailto:info@burrenlife.com), [www.burrenlife.com](http://www.burrenlife.com)

### Ennis
Mon. 2nd March John Murphy The Birds of the Burren - The Future. BurrenLIFE & NPWS lecture Series. Admission Free, all welcome. 8.00pm at the Old Ground Hotel. BurrenLIFE & NPWS lecture Series. Admission Free, all welcome. More info at 065 708 9000, 087 292 5487, [info@burrenlife.com](mailto:info@burrenlife.com), [www.burrenlife.com](http://www.burrenlife.com)

## Cafe Beo and Burrenbeo Resource Centre re-opening

Café Beo in Kinvara will reopen after its winter break at 11am on Valentines Day, Saturday February 12th next. Serving the best cup of coffee in the Burren, and the best vegetarian dishes around, the Café is also a great place to catch up on what’s new in the Burren with lots of free information. Downstairs is the office of the Burrenbeo Trust where you can find out more about our work and about the Burren.

### Burrenbeo Trust - join us today

Join the Burrenbeo Trust and be a part of the most exciting new conservation movement in Ireland! By joining, you can really help to shape the future 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, or 087-9689486, by e-mailing us on [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com) or by visiting [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)