

BurrenLIFE Autumn Talks – Ennistymon – Sept & Oct 2008

The **BurrenLIFE Project** is delighted to announce another series of talks in its *Heritage Education Programme*. The Autumn 2008 series of illustrated talks will focus on the extraordinarily rich natural and cultural heritage of the Burren region and will take place over six *Thursdays* in *September* and *October*. The venue for all the talks is the **Falls Hotel, Ennistymon** and all talks will commence at **8.00pm**. *Admission is free of charge*.

The first talk will take place on Thursday the **18th of September**. The guest speaker is **James Moran** and his talk is entitled “*Farming in the Burren — “Conservation of a High Nature Value Landscape”*”. James completed his doctorate in 2005 on the influence of grazing and flooding regimes on the biodiversity of turloughs. He works with Teagasc Athenyry as an ecology specialist and with the BurrenLIFE Project since it started in 2005.

Stephen Ward will guest speak on the **25th of September** and his talk is called “*From the Isle of Skye to the Burren — Limestone Pavements of Great Britain and Ireland*”. Stephen retired from the Scottish Natural Heritage in 2003 and has continued since then to promote nature conservation in County Clare particularly through his work as chairperson of the Clare Biodiversity Group.

“*The Iceman Cometh*” is the title of the third talk in the series and that will take place on the **2nd of October**. **Robbie Meehan** will be guest speaker on this occasion and his talk is subtitled “*The Glacial Legacy of the Burren and County Clare*”. Robbie has been involved in the conservation of Ireland's Ice Age heritage and will speak of the Ice Age and its resultant landforms in Clare.

On the **9th of October**, **Micheline Sheehy Skeffington** will deliver a talk called “*Turloughs — Vanishing Fields or Vanishing Lakes*”? The talk will focus on the flowers, mammals and invertebrates that can be found around these rare wetlands. Micheline is a botany lecturer at NUI Galway with a special research interest in environmental management. Micheline co-wrote the book “*The Flora of Inner Dublin*” with **Peter Wyse Jackson**.

Paddy Sleeman will deliver the fifth talk on the **16th of October** entitled “*The Burren's Wild Mammals*”. Paddy obtained a Ph.D. on the ecology of the Irish stoat at University College Cork and from this came his book in 1988 *Stoats & Weasels Polecats & Martens*. Paddy is currently based at UCC's Department of Zoology, Ecology and Plant Science, where he works on the complex biological problem of tuberculosis in badgers.

The series will conclude on Thursday the **23rd of October** with a talk by **Rory Sherlock** entitled “*The Irish Tower House from 1400 to 1650 and beyond*”, with particular reference to County Clare. Rory, a County Clare native, is a professional archaeologist with a specific interest in medieval architecture. He is currently completing a PhD at NUI Galway on ‘*The Social Environment of the Irish Tower House*’.

All talks in the series are free of charge and all are welcome to attend.

Further information regarding the talks may be obtained from the BurrenLIFE office 065 708 9000 or mobile 087 292 54 87; e mail info@burrenlife.com