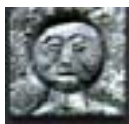


# Burrenbeo Newsletter April 2008



## Limestone Exhibition at Café Beo

An exhibition entitled "Our Limestone Landscapes" is currently on view at the Burrenbeo Resource Centre in Kinvara. The exhibition - composed of 18 illustrated panels - illustrates the wonderful geological features of limestone landscapes and how they were formed. The purpose of the exhibition is to display our limestone landscapes as a positive and necessary resource, to illustrate the increasing pressures on limestone pavement, to identify where further protection is required and create awareness amongst the public as to how they can play their part in conserving this unique - but threatened - resource.

The exhibition was originally launched by Environment Minister John Gormley in Nov. 2007. Speaking at the launch, the Minister made special mention of the Burren, noting that it was of one of Ireland's foremost heritage landscapes, one that deserves our highest levels of respect and protection. The total area of limestone pavement in Ireland is 36,300 hectares (with the UK having around 3,000 ha), 31,822 ha of which are within Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) c.30,000 in the Burren alone. Some 4,478 ha falls outside designated sites and Minister Gormley stated that he would consider designating these areas as NHAs in order to protect them from damage.

The exhibition 'Our Limestone Landscapes' is a cross-border initiative developed by the Environment and Heritage Service of Northern Ireland, the Irish Wildlife Trust and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Dept of the Environment. Admission free: Main Street, Kinvara, Co. Galway. Tel 091-638096 or [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com)

## The Burren Law School 2008 - East meets West - A Clash of Cultures?

This year's Burren Law School takes place from Fri. May 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sun May 4<sup>th</sup> in Ballyvaughan and will be directed by Senator Ivana Bacik. Speakers will include European Commissioner Charlie McCreevy, Dr. John Fingleton, Chief Executive, Office of Fair Trading, UK, Lara Marlowe, Paris Correspondent, Irish Times, John Hume, 1998 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Maurice Hayes, Chair, National Forum on Europe, John O'Shea, Founder & CEO of GOAL, Mary Banotti and Conor O'Clery. Book now on 065-7077200 or for more info go to [www.burrenlawschool.org](http://www.burrenlawschool.org)

## Burren in Bloom May 2008

To celebrate the wonderful botanical wealth of the Burren, a series of illustrated talks and other events throughout the month of May have been organized to give people an understanding of the Burren. Events will include organised walks to view the wild flowers and the many ancient sites that exist throughout the area. Irish music will be provided in the local hotels and pubs throughout the month in addition to stories on local folklore. Further information can be found at 065-7077077. Email: [admin@burrencollege.ie](mailto:admin@burrencollege.ie)

## St. Coman's church project Kinvara.

A report on the archaeological recording of the graveyard associated with St. Coman's Church, Kinvara, Co. Galway has been published. St. Coman's Church is a medieval parish church (RMP GA113:139). In an ongoing programme, a full recording of the interior and an almost full recording of the exterior, as well as an extensive recording of burial monuments inside and outside the church, have been undertaken. [www.stcomans.mellowyellow.ie/](http://www.stcomans.mellowyellow.ie/) for full report.



### Death of Susan Johnston

Tributes have been paid Susan Johnston, founder of the Ailwee Cave company, who died recently at the age of 72 in France. A remembrance service for Susan will be held at St. John the Baptist Church in Ballyvaughan at 7:00 p.m, Fri. 11th April 2008. May she rest in peace.

### Kilnaboy native elected head of Irish National Teachers Organisation

Congratulations to Kilnaboy's Declan Kelleher who has been appointed President of the INTO. Principal of Corofin National School since 1979, he takes charge of the 36,000 member organisation for the next twelve months.

### The 3rd Aughty Gathering, Woodford, April 19th 2008.

The Slógadh Eachtaí will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in the East Galway village of Woodford and will include keynote addresses and group sessions that will cover familiar and less explored aspects of the history and heritage of the Sliabh Aughty uplands to the east of the Burren. The purpose is to celebrate the uniqueness of Slógadh Eachtaí - the followers or people of Aughty - and make connections between people and places around Sliabh Aughty. Speakers include Archaeologist and Hillwalker Tamas Peter Váry, Anita Donaghy from Birdwatch Ireland and musician Michael Fahy. Registration: 10.00 A.M. Email: [slogadheachtai@gmail.com](mailto:slogadheachtai@gmail.com) or [www.aughty.org](http://www.aughty.org)

### Upcoming Events:

**Kilnaboy:** Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>. [Sonny Murphy Memorial Race](#). The 24th Annual Michael Sonny Murphy Memorial 10 mile road race and 10k fun walk at takes place on at 2pm in Kilnaboy. Contact 065 - 6837875 for details.

**Doolin:** Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> The Annual Dunleavy Charity Walk in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. 5 miles long, begins from the Russell Centre at 1pm. Visit [www.michaeldunleavy.com](http://www.michaeldunleavy.com) or call 065-7074332 for more details.

**Carron:** Wed. April 16<sup>th</sup>, 8pm. Caherconnell visitor centre. Dr. Michelle Comber (NUI, Galway) & Graham Hull (TVAS Ireland) will give an illustrated talk on their excavation at Caherconnell cashel. 065-7089999 [www.burrenforts.ie](http://www.burrenforts.ie)

**New Quay:** April 18th 'Moonlight to Midnight' Charity Walk. Unique fundraising event in aid of the Irish Red Cross This 4.5mile walk will be held at the Flagggy Shore near New Quay.

**Ennis:** Thurs-Fri. April 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> County Clare 'Community Action' Heritage Conference @ The Temple Gate Hotel. Contact Clare County Council, Heritage Section 065 6821616. Email: [mlynch@clarecoco.ie](mailto:mlynch@clarecoco.ie)

### Flowers to look out for in the Burren this April

There is little sign of spring colour in the Burren at present, with the flowering season a little behind, though the first gentian sighting reports are in. It's a good time to explore woodland areas which host many early flowers.

Wood anemone (*Anemone nemerosa*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), dog violet (*Viola rivinianna*), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), rue-leaved saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*), blue moor grass (*Sesleria caerulea*),

**Below (l-r):** Early purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Spring gentian (*Gentiana verna*)

