



## Burrenbeo Newsletter November 2008



### **www.burrenbeo.com shortlisted for national award**

Burrenbeo has just been shortlisted as 'the best charity/community' website by the Golden Spider Awards. The Golden Spider Awards are an all-island annual event honouring outstanding online achievements, celebrating the very best internet and digital media produced in Ireland. For more info please see [www.goldenspiders.ie/categories.php](http://www.goldenspiders.ie/categories.php)

### **Places to See Before They Disappear**

The Burren features in a new guidebook on the most endangered tourist destinations across the world. Frommer's '500 Places to See Before They Disappear', which will be published on Nov 6th, describes the Burren as "Ireland's stony wilderness" which "is a fragile environment that is threatened by both too much and too little human attention". Other listings include the Dead Sea and the Taj Mahal. The guidebook's message is not all gloom however. It says some destinations are already on the road to being saved. 'Even in the cases where a site has been lost, or irrevocably damaged, it often has become a rallying point for activists, inspiring them to fight on so that the same mistakes aren't made again.' Source: [www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com) For more info on sustainable tourism in the Burren please visit [www.burrenconnect.ie](http://www.burrenconnect.ie)

### **Burren News shorts...**

**New album launch** Popular Burren based artist and musician Jim Mckee is launching his new album 'just a piece of' in Johnston's Hall in Kinvara on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm. This is the first solo album from the Tyrone musician and features a number of local musicians... **Smokehouse award** Congratulations to the Burren Smokehouse Lisdoonvarna who won three awards at the recent SHOP 2008 exhibition at the RDS in Dublin. The awards included best Irish product and best overall product for their 'Honey Whiskey and Fennel glazed cold smoked Atlantic salmon'... **Cliffs award** The Atlantic Edge exhibition was awarded Best Exhibition by the Institute of Designers in Ireland. Designed by Martello Media, who also produced Burrenbeo's CDROM 'Images of the Fertile Rock', the expo is the centerpiece of the new Cliffs of Moher visitor centre. **Coole things to do** The Coole Park biannual series of cultural events continues with a feast of culture for the upcoming Winter Programme 2008 with storytelling, drama and musical events and much more. [www.coolepark.ie/events/index.php](http://www.coolepark.ie/events/index.php) or 091 631804. **Ceifin** The Annual Ceifin conference 2008 in the West County Hotel, Ennis on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. For further details, visit [www.ceifin.com](http://www.ceifin.com). **Fanore Singers night** O'Donoghue's pub in Fanore will host a singers night on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> with special guest Tim Dennehy. All singers - and good listeners - are welcome.

### **Visual stuttering, a New public art project commissioned, focusing on "farm aesthetics"**

Visual Stuttering is a project commissioned from artist Eileen Healy by Clare Arts Office. She will develop a project relating to documentation of Clare farms through the use of aerial photography. This particular project emerged from a period of research co-funded by Clare Arts Office and Burren Connect which identified the need for a community-based process which acknowledged and defined local cultural elements and in particular engaged directly with farmers, as a marginalised group within the Burren. Initially the artist would like to hear from farm-owners who have aerial photographs of their farm. She can be contacted by e-mail [aerialfarmphotographs@gmail.com](mailto:aerialfarmphotographs@gmail.com) or by phone 087-7922618.

### **RAGAIRNE Irish Language Club.**

A new Irish language club in North Clare called "RAGAIRNE" will meet every second Wednesday at 8.30 pm in the Kilnaboy XPO. "Ragairne" means late night revelling or dissipation! Caint, ceol, craic agus caifé are also promised in this action packed evening where Gaeilge is spoken in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Breis eolas 087 206 75 78.



**Morning mists on Burren hills (léim an phuca beag agus léim an phuca mór)**

## **The Burren – a potential UNESCO Geopark?**

The Burren is renowned for its unusual and diverse flora and for its rich archaeological and historical heritage. It is also one of the most distinctive landscape regions in Ireland, featuring bare rock pavements, cliffed and terraced hills, caves, seasonal lakes, springs, disappearing streams, and a varied coast that passes south into the Cliffs of Moher, one of the most dramatic coastlines in Ireland. Because of these features, the region is a hotspot for scientists working in the fields of geology (rocks) and geomorphology (the shape of the land). Public understanding of these aspects of the region, however, is poor, and the outstanding geo(morpho)logical value of the landscape has no official recognition.

In order to tackle these issues, the potential of the region as a UNESCO Geopark is being explored by staff at Burren Connect (a community-driven project funded by Clare County Council, Shannon Development and the Geological Survey of Ireland that is based in Ennistymon and works on environmental protection and visitor management in the Burren, see [www.burrenconnect.ie](http://www.burrenconnect.ie)). Recognition as a Geopark would raise awareness of the unique landscape and rocks of the region on both a local and international level. A series of public information meetings, starting at 8.00 pm, are scheduled for the following dates and venues:

Tuesday 4th November:	The Burren Centre, Kilfenora
Wednesday 5th November:	Hotel Doolin, Doolin
Thursday 6th November:	The Burren Outdoor Education Centre, Turlough, Belharbour
Monday 10th November:	Clare Genealogical Centre, Corofin
Tuesday 11th November:	O'Donoghue's Pub, Fanore
Thursday 13th November:	Michael Cusack Centre, Carran
Monday 17th November:	Hyland's Hotel, Ballyvaughan

Submissions are invited by email or post; please contact Maria ([mmcnamara@burren.ie](mailto:mmcnamara@burren.ie)) at the Burren Connect Project, Ennistymon Area Offices of Clare County Council, Ennistymon, Co. Clare. Further details of the Geopark project are available at [www.burrenconnect.ie/geopark](http://www.burrenconnect.ie/geopark). Comments also welcome on [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com)

## **East Burren to get new bypass**

Construction work is due to get under way shortly on the next phase of the "Atlantic corridor", with the National Roads Authority (NRA) confirming it has signed a contract for the bypassing of Gort and Crusheen. The cost of the scheme is €207.5 million and the consortium to secure the contract is SIAC Wills JV.

The road scheme consists of 23km of dual carriageway and commences at the northern end of the Ennis bypass and extends to approximately 1km north of Gort, bypassing the village of Crusheen. Construction work is expected to start in the coming weeks and the project is expected to be complete in 2011. However, arising from Government budgetary cutbacks, the next phase of the Atlantic Corridor has been deferred for at least a year. The Gort-Oranmore scheme involves the construction of 28 kilometres of dual-carriageway and is to link up at a major junction with the N6 Galway to Ballinasloe and the M17 Galway-Tuam route.

At the oral hearing concerning the Gort-Crusheen scheme, Galway County Council said the construction costs of the project were €156 million with 11km of the scheme in Co Clare and 12km in Co Galway. As part of the scheme, the lead agency in the project, Galway council is compulsorily acquiring almost 200 hectares of land contained in 103 farms on the route. The scheme involves the severance of 340 hectares of farmland, while the route will pass within 300 metres and 3km of nine designated special area of conservation or national heritage areas. Source: [www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com)



**Water solution on the shores of lough Bunny, east Burren**

### **Ballyvaughan Farmers Market**

Ballyvaughan Farmers' Market is delighted to announce that this year they will be joining forces with Burren Crafts Fair to host their first Ballyvaughan Christmas Market. Located in the community hall it will run for three weekends in December, Saturday and Sunday 6th & 7th December, Saturday & Sunday 13th & 14th December and Saturday & Sunday 20th & 21st December. There will be wide selection of fresh local produce and a variety of quality local crafts all with a festive influence. The farmers market will be closed in November after another successful summer.

### **MEGS MORELY 'PENNING THE MARTS'**

X-PO Kilnaboy will host a new exhibition titled 'Penning the Marts' this month. This is an award winning DVD work made by Megs Morley for the Claremorris Open Exhibition in 2005. It captures records of a number of farmers who share their memories of the weekly cattle market in Claremorris that closed down in 2003. Local Kilnaboy photographer, Peter Rees's 'Last Mart in Kilnaboy', seen at X-PO in June, will also be shown in conjunction with this exhibition. This exhibition will be launched on Sunday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> (12 – 2pm) at X-PO Kilnaboy, Co Clare. Opening times: Mon-Thurs 2-5pm. Friday 10.30 – 12.30 (X-PO coffee mornings) Info at [xpo.community@gmail.com](mailto:xpo.community@gmail.com)

### **Ballyvaughan – Fanore Walking Club Walks Calendar** <http://www.ballyvaughanfanorewalkingclub.com/>

November 9th Doolin to Fanore (4hrs) Leader: John Sharry 087-2750315

Meet: O'Donoghues Pub Fanore at 10 am leaving Fanore at 10.30am

November 23rd Caherbullog. (4hrs) Leader: Michael Queally 086-0767776

Meet: O'Donoghues Pub, Fanore at 10.30am walk starts at 11am

November 30th Muckinish / Aillwee (4hrs) Leader: Kevin McCormack 086-3272472

Meet: Parish Hall, Ballyvaughan at 10.30am walk at 11am.

Also, the Seventh Annual Sponsored Burren Walk will take place on Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup>. The walk is in support of the Alzheimer's Society and begins from O'Donoghues pub. Please call 065-6868621 for more info.

### **Café Beo and the Burrenbeo Resource Centre – come see us in Kinvara!**

A new exhibition by Kinvara artist Julia O'Keeffe entitled 'Beyond the Wilderness' is now on display at Café Beo in Kinvara. Located on Main Street Kinvara. Winter Opening: Wed – Sat, 10am – 4pm, Sunday 11.30 – 4pm.

Also, please visit us at Café Beo or pick up loads of free Burren info at our Resource Centre. You can support the work of Burrenbeo by promoting the Burrenbeo website [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com) and referring people to the range of quality accommodation and service providers listed on the site – businesses which support the non-profit work of Burrenbeo. We would also welcome any Burren news, info, articles etc to post on the website and are happy to promote free local and community events.

### **Burren Beef and Lamb – get yours now!**

The Burren Beef and Lamb producers Group are currently taking orders for quality, local, conservation-grade beef and lamb from the Burren. Tel 065-7089000, 087-9963477 or e-mail [burrenproducers@gmail.com](mailto:burrenproducers@gmail.com) Perfect for Christmas.

### **Some flowers still in bloom in the Burren this November**

As winter descends on the Burren, some pin-points of colour may still be seen including: Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Bloody cranesbill (*Geranium sanguineum*), Cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Devil's but scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.) and Herb Robert (*Geranium robertarium*).



**Burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*) leaves, Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and Eyebright (*Euphrasia* spp)**