

## Burrenbeo Newsletter August 2007

### **Move to protect threatened species of 'Old Irish Goat' in the Burren**

The goat is an animal closely associated with the Burren, where large herds of feral (once farmed, now wild) goats are commonly seen. While many of the Burren's feral goats are recent additions, abandoned by their owners, international experts have identified a small number of a rare breed of indigenous 'old Irish goat' among these herds. These old goats represent an invaluable and unique genetic resource, but their status is now described as critical due to ongoing interbreeding with 'tame' goats, and also because of the inadvertent culling of goat herds. A new initiative by the BurrenLIFE Project ([www.burrenlife.com](http://www.burrenlife.com)) and some local farmers is working to establish a 20 acre enclosure to secure a breeding population of Old Irish goats. This pilot project will help conserve a threatened genetic resource, and allow the monitoring of feral goat's impact on scrub and grasslands, exploring their use as a 'conservation grazing' tool. The BurrenLIFE project also called for a proper management strategy for the broader feral goat population of the Burren.

### **Roadworks and water shortages hit Burren villages**

In spite of all the rain, residents and businesses in Fanore are counting the cost of water shortages experienced in the village over the past ten weeks which have crippled some businesses during peak season. Meanwhile, business leaders in Ballyvaughan are none too pleased by the proposed extended closure of the N67 Corkscrew hill road to Lisdoonvarna this October to allow for the upgrading of the local water supply.

### **Burren feature in Irish Times - 'The battle of the Burren'**

Locals in the 'Co Clare beauty spot' are hoping a new initiative will succeed in making tourism more sustainable without compromising the Burren landscape, writes Brian O'Connell in the Irish Times of August 11<sup>th</sup>. For more details on this article, and on other recent Burren-related articles, please see our media section at <http://www.burrenbeo.com/news-mediapieces.aspx>.

### **What flowers to look out for in the Burren this Autumn:**

Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*), Ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Wild thyme (*Thymus praecox*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Eyebrights (*Euphrasia* spp), Yellow rattle (*Rhinantus minor*), Cats ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Autumn Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Yellow wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Common centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Carline thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Squinancywort (*Asperula cynanchica*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*).

Five handy colour flora checksheets available now to download from [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Celebrate the living heritage of the Burren this Heritage week, Aug 25<sup>th</sup> - Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Ballyvaughan** until September 29<sup>th</sup> - The fourth Burren Annual Exhibition - Wild Honey

Venue: Burren College of Art. Mondays - Fridays 9.30am - 5.30pm. Artists on display include: Stephen Brandes, Dorothy Cross, Blaise Drummond, Patrick Hall, Ronnie Hughes & Fergus Martin [www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie)

**Kinvara:** Thursday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8.30pm Burren for Beginners. Venue: Cafe Beo on Main street.

40 min introductory illustrated talk on the flora, fauna, geology and archaeology of the Burren

**Carron:** Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm - Free Guided Burren Field Trip with Dr. Sharon Parr (BurrenLIFE). Meeting Point: Old School House, Carron. Email: [info@burrenlife.com](mailto:info@burrenlife.com) Telephone: 065 708 9000

**Carron:** Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 3pm - 'Michael Cusack - Founder of the GAA'.

30 minute lecture at Michael Cusack Centre, Carron. [info@michaelcusack.ie](mailto:info@michaelcusack.ie) Tel: 065-7089944

**Caherconnell:** Sat. Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> to Sun. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> Archaeological excavation at Caherconnell Fort.

8am - 5pm daily. \*Admission fee applies. Tel. 065 7089999 or email: [info@burrenforts.ie](mailto:info@burrenforts.ie)

**Kinvara:** Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am - Free Burren Walk to celebrate the Heritage of the Burren

Two hour walk suitable for all ages. Prebooking essential at 091-638096 or [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com)

**Gort:** Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2pm - Tree walk with Gordon D'Arcy

Venue: Visitor Centre, Coole Park Gort, Galway. Email: [info@coolepark.ie](mailto:info@coolepark.ie) Telephone: 091 631804

**Kilfenora:** Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup>, 8pm - Free Illustrated Talk: 'The Burren - A World of Wonder'

Illustrated talk by Ruairi O'Conchuir (BLP) at The Burren Centre, Kilfenora [info@burrenlife.com](mailto:info@burrenlife.com)

**Kinvara:** Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup> Children's Wildlife Workshops with Gordon D'Arcy

Two classes: 11am and 2.00pm. \*Admission Free but 5 euro charge for materials will apply. Places limited, so prebooking is essential on 091-638096 or [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com)

**Kinvara:** Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 8.30pm Illustrated Talk at Café Beo, Kinvara.

'The Burren - One Vast Memorial to bygone Cultures' by Brendan Dunford. [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com)

**Lisdoonvarna:** August 31st - October 7th 2007 [Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival](#)

The biggest 'singles' event in Europe and one of the oldest (and wildest) festivals in Ireland. Tel 065 7074005

Email: [rhurley@eircom.net](mailto:rhurley@eircom.net) or visit [www.matchmakerireland.com](http://www.matchmakerireland.com)

**Crusheen:** Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>, 3pm Free Guided Walk in Crusheen. [www.aughty.org](http://www.aughty.org)

Venue: Community centre, Crusheen. [info@aughty.org](mailto:info@aughty.org), Tel: 065-6827172

**Carron:** Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>, 6pm - Turloughs and Burren Geology

Illustrated talk by Paddy Maher at Cassidys, Carron. [info@michaelcusack.ie](mailto:info@michaelcusack.ie) Tel: 065-7089944

**New Quay:** Sat. September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1.00pm. Flaggy Shore Field Trip: "Life on a Rocky Shore"

Led by Dave Mc Grath ( GMIT). Booking Essential 065 708 9000 or [info@burrenlife.com](mailto:info@burrenlife.com)

**Gort:** Sunday Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2pm - 5pm Environment Day - Free walks and fun activities

Venue: Visitor Centre, Coole Park Gort. [info@coolepark.ie](mailto:info@coolepark.ie) Telephone: 091 631804

**Kinvara:** Sunday September 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am - Free Burren Walk to celebrate Heritage Week.

Two hour walk suitable for all ages. Prebooking essential at 091-638096 or [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com)

**Fanore:** Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 12.30pm. The 14th Annual Burren Ramble in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI). A wonderful day out for a wonderful cause. 087 6260301. Meet at O'Donoghue's Pub

## Support Burrenbeo

Burrenbeo is a non-profit information and education provider dedicated to the sustainable future for the Burren and its communities. You can help us in this important work 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. Also, please visit us at Café Beo in Kinvara, Open Mon. – Sat, 10am – 7pm, Sunday 12 – 5pm. Over the past 12 months alone [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com) has had over 3m hits and 250,000 unique visitors.