

## Burrenbeo Newsletter May 2007

### **Free information resources for Burren visitors and residents**

Burrenbeo has launched a new series of Floral Checksheets to help beginners identify some of the flowers found in bloom in the Burren right now. Every month find 10 new flowers. Simply go to [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com) and follow the links to download and print your full colour checksheet: suitable for all ages and levels of expertise, a fun way to learn your flora. Now also available - factsheets on the Burren in English, French, Dutch and German. Open your eyes to the living Burren with Burrenbeo!

### **Falls Hotel taps into Inagh power**

One of North Clare's best known hotels, the Falls Hotel in Ennistymon, has lodged plans to upgrade an existing hydro power station on the Inagh River with a new model with a capacity to deliver 367MW of power. The hotel hopes that in future not only will the river provide hotel guests with stunning views of the legendary waterfalls, but that it will also provide them with a renewable source of energy.

### **Burren Brand and Signage Plan - your chance to contribute**

A new Burren initiative aims to prepare a signage plan for the Burren and to develop a Burren brand. The signage plan will address issues such as rationalising existing practice, delineating the Burren, reducing visual clutter, effective directional signage to visitor attractions and facilities and the standardisation of place names. The branding exercise aims to develop a Burren brand that is distinctive and memorable, that will be supported by the local community and will become an effective marketing tool for local service providers. Following a series of consultation meetings, there had been a renewed call for people to have their say by emailing [nbmcgrath@eircom.net](mailto:nbmcgrath@eircom.net) before the end of May.

### **Ennis bypass archaeological artefacts on display at Museum and on-line at [www.clarelibrary.ie](http://www.clarelibrary.ie)**

A new and expanded exhibition of archaeological material spanning 4,500 years is now on display at Clare Museum in Ennis, County Clare. According to archaeology company, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd, the artefacts provide a new depth of understanding of Ireland's heritage and cultural past. Meanwhile, archaeological reports, illustrated with photographs and drawings for the 27 sites discovered on the N18 Ennis Bypass and N85 Western Relief Road are now available on the Clare County Library website.

### **Works planned for Fanore beach**

As part of a new Failte Ireland funded, Clare Co. Co. led initiative which has included the provision of parking facilities at Poul nabrone, improvement works have been proposed for Fanore beach. Planned works include extending existing dune protective fencing, the provision of cold showers, improving means of access to the beach and the restoration of existing gravel-surfaced roadways to dune grassland. It is also proposed to construct a new parking area on the grass strip near the public toilets and to alter the entrance to the grassland near the junction of the main road. For more details visit [http://www.clare.ie/news/Proposed\\_Development\\_Fanore.html](http://www.clare.ie/news/Proposed_Development_Fanore.html)

### **Election Fever Hits Clare**

With days to go before Thursday's elections, Candidates are actively canvassing across the county. With most pollsters predicting no change for Clare - which currently has 2 Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael and 1 independent TDs. Kilnaboy native Junior Minister Tony Killeen appears safe, with Senator Timmy Dooley expected to join him for FF by winning Sile de Valera's former seat. Pat Breen of Fine Gael seems likely to be returned, as does independent James Breen, though some pundits feel that Pat Carey of Fine Gael or possibly Brian Meaney of the Green Party may yet upset the applecart.

### **Events coming up over the next month in the Burren (please submit your event)**

**Ballyvaughan** Burren in Bloom Festival. Free lectures at the Burren college of Art, 8.30pm sharp.

May 22nd Dr Sharon Parr on A Skylark's view of the Burren

May 24th Dr Brendan Dunford on Managing the Burren - Past, Present and Future

**Kilnaboy** May 25<sup>th</sup>. Burren National Park - An evening walk through the Burren National Park with Tony Kirby. Meet at the church at Kilnaboy at 7.00pm. Contact (065) 6827707

**Gort** May 27<sup>th</sup> The Changing Colours Festival featuring the Carnival Parade. Tel. 091-631203

**Ennistymon** June 3rd & 4th. North Clare Agricultural Show. Venue: Falls Hotel Ennistymon.

Show Jumping on Saturday showing classes for horses, ponies, donkeys, cattle, sheep.

Agricultural show on Sunday - home crafts, photography, dogs, set dancing. For more info contact Josephine 065 7071121

**Ballyvaughan** June 16<sup>th</sup>. Tour de Burren - the Burren Cycling Clubs 4th annual Cycling Event.

Two routes: a 160 km cycle for stronger cyclists and a 60 km spin for the fun minded cyclist.

Starting time: 9.30am for 160k; 11am for 60k @ the Community Field, Ballyvaughan, Co.

Clare. For further information contact Patrick O' Donohue on 086 2579682, or visit

[www.burrencyclingclub.com](http://www.burrencyclingclub.com)

### **Flora of the fertile rock - prominent new sightings for mid-May 2007**

Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Bramble or blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Yellow clover (*Trifolium dubium*), Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), Kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Common butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), Marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*), Water avens (*Geum rivale*), Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*).

Below (L-R): Mouse ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*) and Quaking grass or famine grass/féar gorta (*Briza media*).



### **Support Burrenbeo, support the Burren Business Network**

Planning a visit to the Burren this year or know somebody who is? Why not refer them to the Burren Business Network whose members (a range of quality accommodation and service providers) are listed on [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com). As well as providing an excellent service, members of this network support the non-profit work of Burrenbeo in providing information and education services for the Burren.

Also, please visit us at Café Beo in Kinvara, Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm, Sunday 12 - 5pm.